Izumi Tsubaki

MONTHLY GIRLS' NOZAKI-KUN

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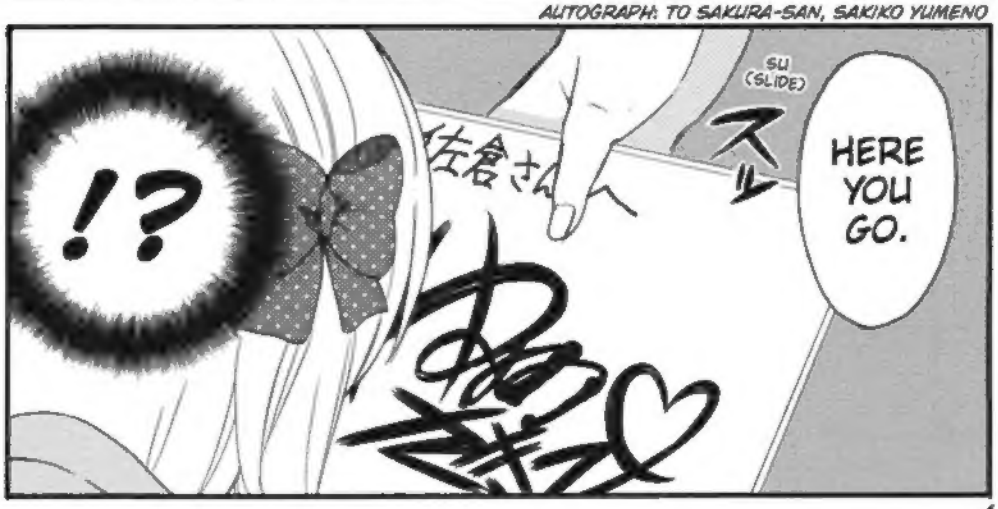
[FIRST ISSUE]

HOW IT ALL STARTED

AUTOGRAPH: TO SAKURA-SAN, SAKIKO YUMENO



CHIYO SAKURA, AGE SIXTEEN.
I CONFESSED MY FEELINGS TO THE BOY I LIKE, ONLY TO GET HIS AUTOGRAPH BACK.
WELL...
I DID SAY I WAS HIS FAN, BUT STILL ...!!

ALWAYS BE WITH ME...?
I MEAN...
UM, I WANT TO ALWAYS BE WITH YOU, NOZAKI-KUN.
THAT'S NOT IT!

NOW HE MIGHT THINK I'M TOO SERIOUS!!
WAIT! WHAT AM I SAYING!? WHY CAN'T I JUST TELL HIM THAT I LIKE HIM LIKE NORMAL...?

SO CASUAL!!!
THEN DO YOU WANT TO COME TO MY PLACE RIGHT NOW?

DOES HE BRING GIRLS HERE ALL THE TIME!!?
I JUST CAN'T GET A HOLD OF ANYONE RIGHT NOW.
AH, YOU REALLY SAVED ME.

BUT IF I DO, HE'LL CALL ANOTHER GIRL INSTEAD...
I...
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST GO HOME...
I CAME WITH HIM WITHOUT REALLY THINKING ABOUT IT, BUT...
NOW WHAT?

I'LL...
...DO MY BEST!!!
N—
NOZAKI-KUN!
...DON'T WANT THAT!!!

MAKE IT NICE AND DARK.
THEN CAN YOU DO THE BETA ON THAT?

?
.....

.....
OH.
YOU'RE GOOD, SAKURA.
THANKS.
SAKU-RA.
THIS ONE TOO.

YOU ABOUT READY TO TAKE A BREAK?

YOU DID BETA FOR FOUR HOURS WITHOUT KNOWING THAT?
HUH?
WHAAAA!?
NOZAKI-KUN...
YOU'RE A MANGA-KA!!?

COVER: SAKIKO YUMENO, LET'S FALL... / AUTOGRAPH: TO SAKURA-SAN, FROM SAKIKO YUMENO

I LOVE YOU...
Sakiko Yumeno...
A super-popular creator known for delicate sensibility and gorgeous visuals.

BASHI (SMACK)
A COCK-ROACH !!!
NO-ZAKI!!
KYAA!
KYAA!

Someone who presents a young maiden's heart so gracefully...
...can be called the spokesperson for girls' hearts everywhere.

HOW CAN YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT!!?
YOU REALLY HAVE NO TACT AT ALL!!!
INOUE.
YOUR BRA'S SHOWING, SO YOU SHOULD PUT A JACKET ON.

IT FEELS WEIRD BEING CALLED THAT AT SCHOOL.
I TRIED CALLING HIM "YUMENO-SENSEI" JUST TO BE SURE.
NOT EVEN MY CLASS-MATES KNOW.
YEAH.
?
HUH?
COULD IT BE...
...NO ONE KNOWS?
DOES THAT MEAN I'M SPECIAL ...!!?
THEN...
NOZAKI-KUN...
AND THEN THEY GOT MAD BECAUSE I KEPT INSISTING.
I TRIED TELLING THEM, BUT NO ONE BELIEVED ME.

HUH!!?
THANKS FOR YESTER-DAY.
OH YEAH.
WERE YOU OKAY NOT GOING TO ART CLUB?

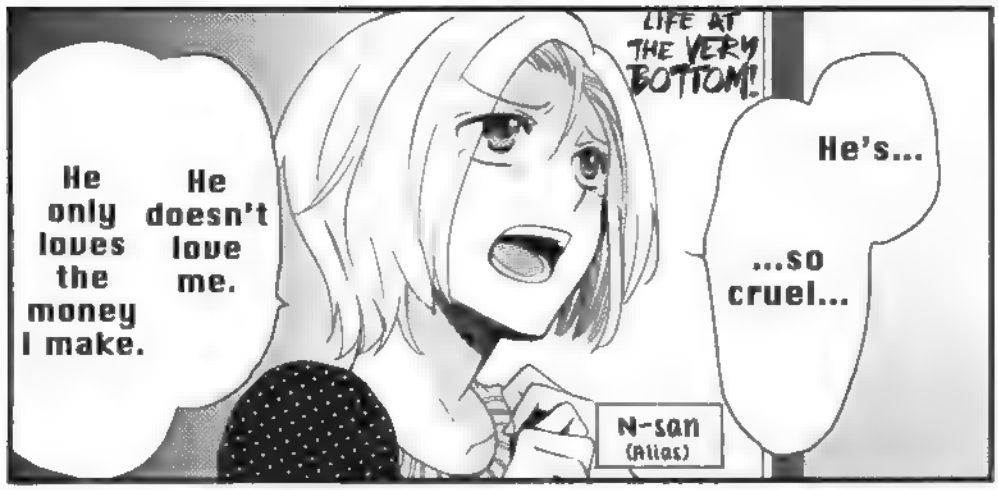
YEAH...
WELL...
...YOU KNOW WHAT CLUB I'M IN...?
NOZAKI-KUN...

Y-
HUH?
YOUR EYE...!!!
DOKI (BA-THUMP)
I'VE HAD MY EYE ON YOU ALL THIS TIME.

HE WAS AFTER ME FOR MY SKILL...!!?
I FIGURED ANYONE WHO COULD DRAW A POSTER LIKE THAT WITHOUT GOING OUTSIDE OF THE LINES WOULD DO GOOD WORK...

Couples' situations around town
He's only... ... interested in my looks!

!?
THAT WOULD BE NICE...
.....


He only loves the money I make.
He doesn't love me.
LIFE AT THE VERY BOTTOM!
He's... ...so cruel...
N-san (Alias)

ARE YOU... ...SOMEONE'S WALLET !!?
OH... I GET THAT.

WHY DO YOU DRAW SHOUJO MANGA, NOZAKI-KUN?
HMM.
WELL ...
IT WAS MY HOBBY ...
AND I JUST KEPT GOING WITH IT.

I COULD NEVER DRAW ANYTHING LIKE THIS...
...THAT'S SUCH A SIMPLE ANSWER, BUT LOOK AT THE PAGES HE CREATES...

NO NEED TO BE ANXIOUS ABOUT IT, YOU KNOW.
IT MUST BE A DIFFERENCE IN EXPERI-ENCE WITH LOVE...

SERIOUSLY, WHY DO YOU DRAW SHOUJO MANGA!!?
BAAN (TA-DAAA)
ばーーーん
AFTER ALL, I HAVEN'T EVEN HAD MY FIRST LOVE YET!!

BUT THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO COME TO ME FOR ROMANTIC ADVICE.
IS THERE SOMEONE YOU LIKE?
HUH!?
M-ME...!!?

UMM...
AT FIRST, I WAS DRAWN TO HOW TALL HE IS AND HIS MANLY PERSONALITY ...

I CONFESSED TO HIM, AND HE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE.
BUT BECAUSE OF THAT, I GET TO TALK TO HIM A LOT MORE NOW.
ALTHOUGH, I GET THE FEELING HE SEES ME AS NOTHING BUT A HANDYMAN...

WHAT IN THE WORLD DO YOU LIKE ABOUT HIM?
?
...

AUTOGRAPH: TO SAKURA-SAN

TEACH ME! MANGA TERMINOLOGY!!

THIS MANGA MIGHT BE EASIER TO READ IF YOU KNOW THESE THINGS!!

THE GENERAL FLOW OF CREATING A MANGA GOES ①PLOT ➡②THUMBS ➡③PRODUCTION. HERE I'LL EXPLAIN THE PLOT AND THUMBS!!

❶PLOT ... DECIDING THE GENERAL STORY. COMPLETION VARIES FROM PERSON TO PERSON.

MAN "WAIT, PLEASE!!! ISN'T THAT MY TIE!?"

THE HEROINE RUNS AWAY (LOOKING ANGUISHED).

WOMAN "I'M SO SORRY...!! BUT I REALLY NEED THIS...!!"

MAN "WHY WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS...!?"

FULL OF LINES, LIKE A SCRIPT.

TIE STOLEN.
⇩
BEING USED AS A GOOD LUCK CHARM.
⇩
BECOMES A SCARF.

HAS THE GENERAL FLOW.

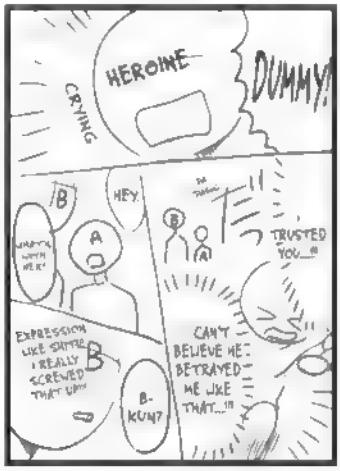
A STORY ABOUT A TIE.

JUST DOESN'T WANT TO DO A PLOT.

❷THUMBS ... A FIRST DRAFT WITH SKETCHES SHOWING THE GENERAL PANEL LAYOUT AND CHARACTERS. THIS VARIES AS WELL.

PRETTY MUCH A FINISHED MANUSCRIPT.

YOU CAN ROUGHLY MAKE OUT MOST OF THE EXPRESSIONS.



BLANK FIGURES.

THE SAFE ZONE DEPENDS ON THE EDITOR'S IMAGINATION.

※A MORE COMPLETE DRAFT MIGHT HAVE AN ADVANTAGE DURING THE SELECTION PROCESS.

M-SHI
YOUR EDITOR IS YOUR FIRST READER, YOU KNOW.
OF COURSE, YOU SHOULD SUBMIT IT PRETTY MUCH COMPLETED.
ARE YOU EVEN TRYING?
ROUGH EXPRESSIONS THUMBS

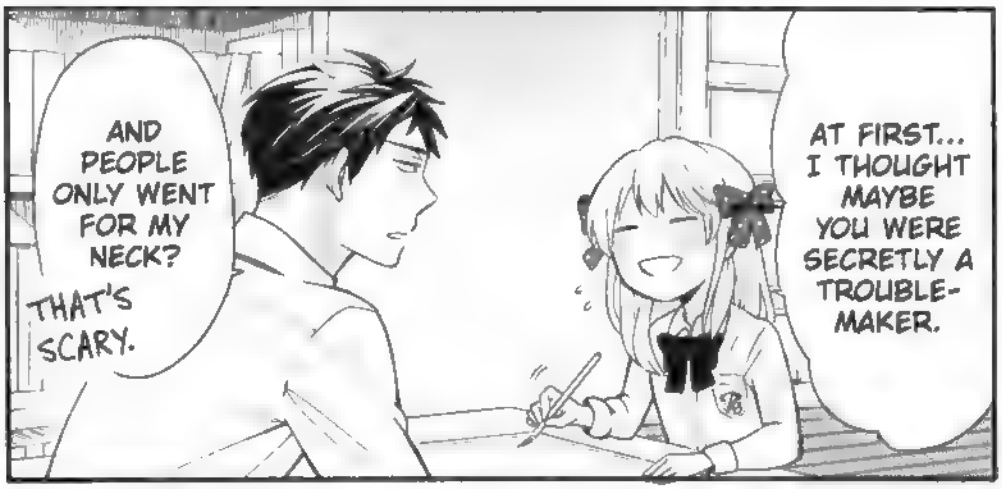
[ISSUE 2]

...WOULD COME TO SCHOOL ALL BEATEN UP.
SOME-TIMES NOZAKI-KUN...

WAS HE IN A FIGHT ...!?
.....
YOU'RE SURE IN A BAD MOOD...
YOU OKAY ...?
H-HEY...

COMPRESS (TENDINITIS)
COMPRESS (STIFF SHOULDERS)
NOW
SLEEP DEPRIVED

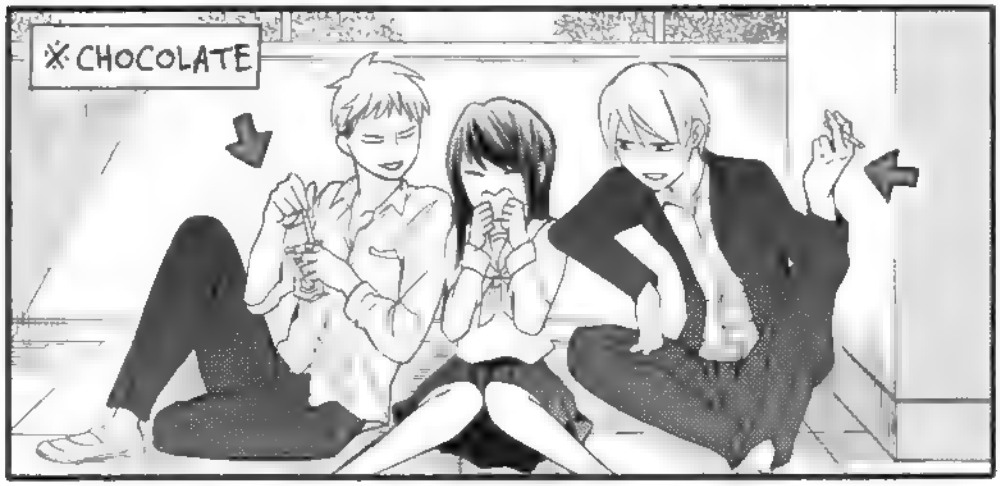
HE HAD A DEAD-LINE...
OHH.


AT FIRST... I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WERE SECRETLY A TROUBLE-MAKER.
AND PEOPLE ONLY WENT FOR MY NECK?
THAT'S SCARY.

STILL ...
...SOMEONE WHO'S NORMAL TO THE PUBLIC BUT A DELINQUENT ON THE OTHER SIDE IS SOME-THING I CAN WORK WITH.
I'LL THINK ABOUT THAT.

OH!
THEN I'LL HELP!!
LET'S SEE...
THEY SHOULD BE PUFFING ON CIGARETTES AND GULPING DOWN BOOZE.

NO.
MAKE THOSE CIGARETTES CHOCOLATE...
...AND THE BOOZE JUICE.
TO BE WHOLE-SOME.
THIS IS A SHOUJO MANGA.
THAT MAKES THEM TOTAL WIMPS!



MAGAZINE: GIRLS' ROMANCE

BOOK: THE SIX CODES

[THE DUELING LAW (REAL NAME)]
HE WHO CHALLENGES SOMEONE TO A DUEL, HE WHO ACCEPTS THE CHALLENGE, AND HE WHO PLANS THE DUEL ARE ALL GUILTY!! ...ACCORDING TO LAW.
IT'S CALLED "THE DUELING LAW" !!!

LETTER: LETTER OF CHALLENGE

SO THE SETUP WOULD BE THAT ALL DELIN-QUENTS ARE ESPERS!?
LET'S DO IT!!
YOU WANNA DO THIS?
BACHI (CRACKLE)
IF THAT HAPPENS, ALL THEY'LL BE ABLE TO DO IS JUST HAVE CONVERSA-TIONS WITH THEIR EYES.

C—
CAN I WALK HOME WITH YOU?
BUT I...
...RODE MY BIKE.
OH!

YUMENO-SENSE!!!
KYAAA!
IS THIS LEADING UP TO THAT TRADI-TIONAL ROMANTIC EVENT!?
WHAT'S THAT?
HUH?

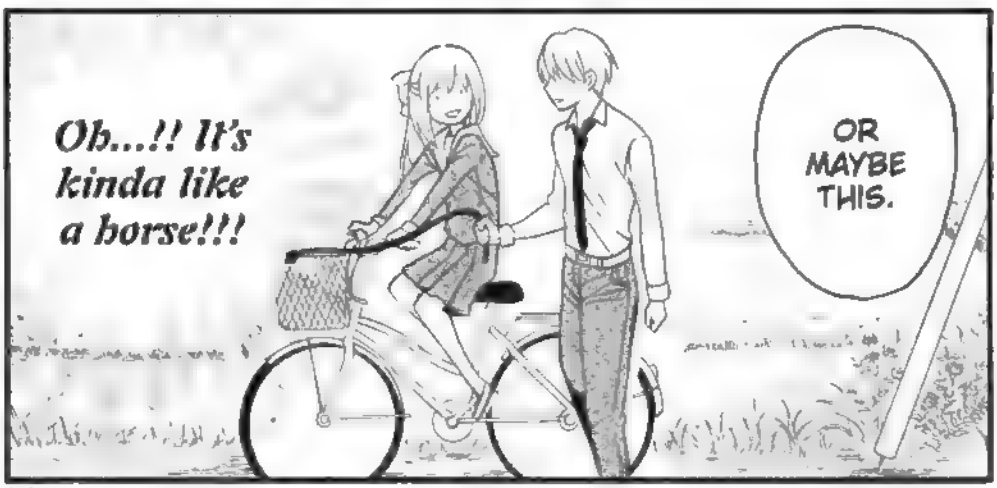
MY HEART'S POUNDING SO HARD THAT MY HANDS ARE SHAKING...♡
WHAT SHOULD I HOLD ON TO...!?
I CAN FEEL THE WARMTH OF HIS BODY FROM BEHIND...
WHAT, YOU ASK?
THE BIKE RIDE!

I'M SORRY...
THAT'S AGAINST THE TRAFFIC LAWS NOW...

...GOING HOME TOGETHER WITH SOME-ONE WHO RIDES A BIKE WOULD...
NOW THAT WE CAN'T PUT TWO PEOPLE ON THE BIKE ...

HMM...
IT DOESN'T REALLY HAVE THE VISUAL IMPACT, BUT I GUESS YOU CAN'T HELP IT...
...BE LIKE THIS.

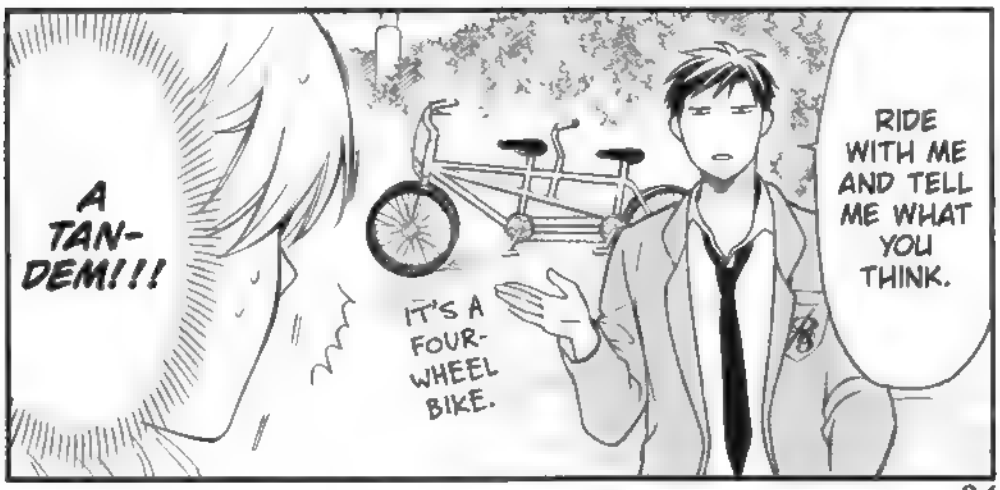
THAT'S AWFUL !!!
THIS BOY IS DESPI-CABLE!!!
THEN WHAT IF I DO THIS?


Oh...!! It's kinda like a horse!!!
OR MAYBE THIS.

I DO!
I DO!!!
SAKU-RA...
WANT TO HEAD HOME TO-GETHER?

HUH !!?
I RODE MY BIKE TODAY, SO YOU CAN RIDE BEHIND ME.

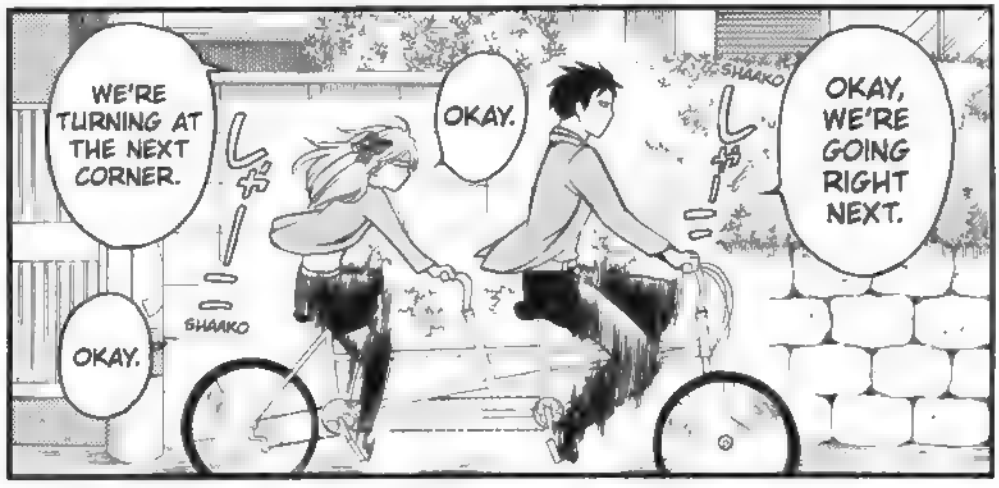
COULD HE BE FORCING HIMSELF BECAUSE I GOT SO EXCITED ABOUT IT YESTERDAY...?
DOKI (BADMP)
DOKI
DOKI
WH—
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?


A TAN-DEM!!!
IT'S A FOUR-WHEEL BIKE.
RIDE WITH ME AND TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK.

TEST RIDE

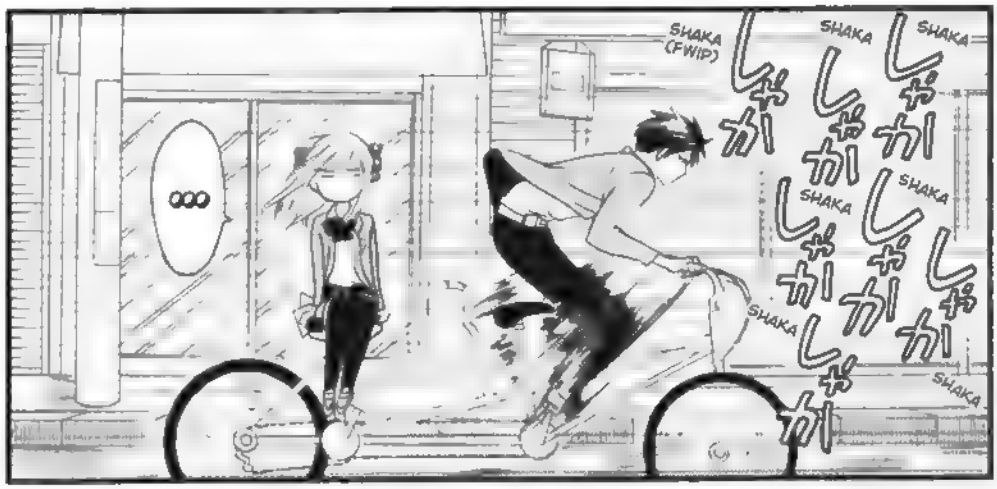
SHAAKO
SHAAKO
SHAAKO (F.W/SHO)
WE TRIED RIDING IT.

SHAAKO
SHAAKO
SHAA
SHAAKO
SHAA
IT FEELS A BIT RECREATIONAL.
HOW DOES IT FEEL?
.....


WE'RE TURNING AT THE NEXT CORNER.
OKAY.
SHAAKO
OKAY, WE'RE GOING RIGHT NEXT.
OKAY.
SHAAKO

SHAAKO
SHAAKO
SHAA
SHAAKO
SHAA
I WOULD SAY...MOST LIKELY, IT'D BE TRUST THAT BLOSSOMS.
DO YOU THINK LOVE COULD BLOSSOM FROM THIS?
.....

I SEE...
MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T BE PEDALING BACK THERE?
!
OH YEAH!!
THEN I'LL JUST SIT HERE AND NOT DO ANYTHING!


SHAKA (FWIP)
SHAKA
SHAKA
SHAKA
SHAKA
SHAKA
SHAKA
SHAKA
ooo

I FEEL SUPER-GUILTY BEING THE ONLY ONE NOT DOING ANY-THING!!
LET ME PEDAL TOO!!
HMM.
THEN, AT LEAST ...
...TRY WRAP-PING YOUR ARMS AROUND MY WAIST TO GET YOUR HEART POUND-ING!!

SHAKA
SHAKA
SHAKA
SHAKA
SHAKA

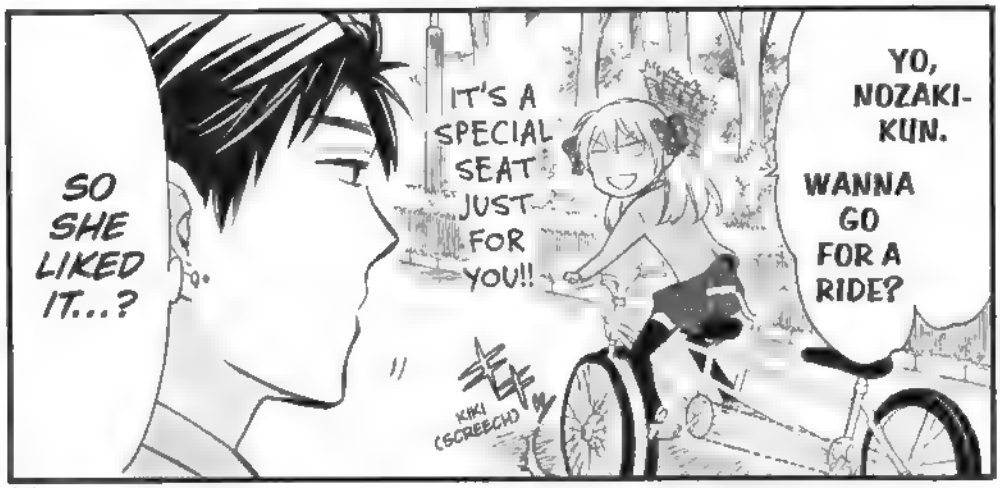
THE HERO'S BELOVED RIDE

AN UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS

IT SLOWLY GREW ON HER

IN THE END, HE WAS TOLD TO STOP FOOLING AROUND, AND THE STORY WAS RE-JECTED.
Y-YOU CAN JUST GO ON AHEAD ...
NO, IT'S DARK. I'LL WALK YOU HOME.
BESIDES, IF I WALK LIKE THIS...
...I CAN STAY WITH YOU THAT MUCH LONGER.

MAGAZINE: GIRLS' ROMANCE



BY THE WAY, A TANDEM BIKE IS ONLY LEGAL ON THE ROADS IN NAGANO, HYOGO, YAMAGATA, EHIME, AND HIROSHIMA PREFECTURES.
FOUR-WHEELED BIKES IN MANGA ARE IFFY, I GUESS.
THEN WHAT WILL YOU DO IF THEY TELL YOU IT'S AGAINST THE LAW?
IF THAT HAPPENS, I'LL MAKE MAMIKO A RESIDENT OF HIROSHIMA PREFEC-TURE.
THERE'S NOTHIN' ...
...'TWEEN ME AND HIM!!
THAT'S WAY TOO FORCED !!!

[ISSUE 3]

WHAT'S HE LIKE?
HE'S A GUY. YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
OH, MIKOSHIBA'S COMING OVER TO HELP TODAY TOO.
MIKO-SHIBA...

Miko-rin!!!
THE SOOTHING TYPE.
DEEP DOWN IN MY HEART, I CALL HIM MIKORIN.
HE'S PURE, DELICATE, AND EASILY HURT.

HUH?
WHAT'S WITH THE SHRIMP?
ZUN (DUM)
DODOO (DADUN)
IDE (DA)
DE
DEE
DON (DUM)
DON
MORN-ING...
...NO-ZAKI.

YOU LIAR !!!
DOKO (DADA)
DON
ZUN
DE
DE
DEE
DON
THIS IS MIKO-SHIBA-KUN.

MIKOSHIBA-KUUUN!
WELL...
YOU KNOW...
HE'S SUPER FLASHY!!
WHAT ABOUT HIM IS A MIKORIN!?
NOZAKI-KUN!!
HISO
HISO (WHISPER)

KYAA! HAVE FUN WITH ME!
KYAA! KYA!
HEY, GIRLS. IF YOU'VE GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO, WANNA HAVE SOME FUN WITH ME?

THEN HE SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID IT...!!!
IT'S ADORABLE, ISN'T IT?
HE SAID IT HIMSELF, AND NOW HE'S EMBARRASSED ABOUT IT.

LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT.
.....
NICE TO MEET YOU.
PEKO (BOW)
I'M SAKURA. I HELP WITH THE BETA.
OH, UMM.

I HATE STUPID HASSLES LIKE THAT.
EVEN IF THERE'S SOME-THING YOU DON'T KNOW, DON'T ASK ME ABOUT IT.

WHAT A HAS-SLE!!!
SOWA (FIDGET)
そわ
SOWA
そわ
SOWA
そわ
HE LOOKS LIKE HE WANTS YOU TO ASK HIM SOMETHING, SO JUST MAKE SOMETHING UP.

MIKO-SHIBA-KUN...
... ABOUT THE HAIR SHINE HERE...
THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY, SO I ASKED HIM.

HMPH!
GIVE IT HERE.
OH WELL!
HUUH!?
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT?
PAAA (SHINE)

WOOOW!
YOU'RE GOOD!
SUSU (REACH)
OHHH.
LISTEN UP!!
YOU PUT A MARK HERE FOR THE HAIR WHORL...

HMM!
THAT'S USEFUL!
WHOA!
I SEE!
WATCH CARE-FULLY!!
SHA (PWISH)
SHA
AND HERE'S THE TRICK!!

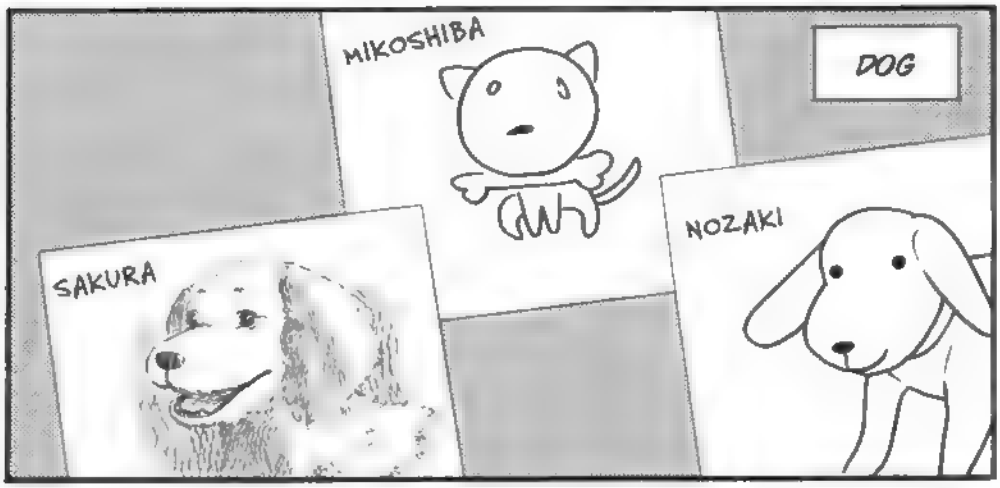
OH.
I'M OUT OF DRINKS...
I'LL GO GET SOME!!
I'LL RUN ERRANDS!

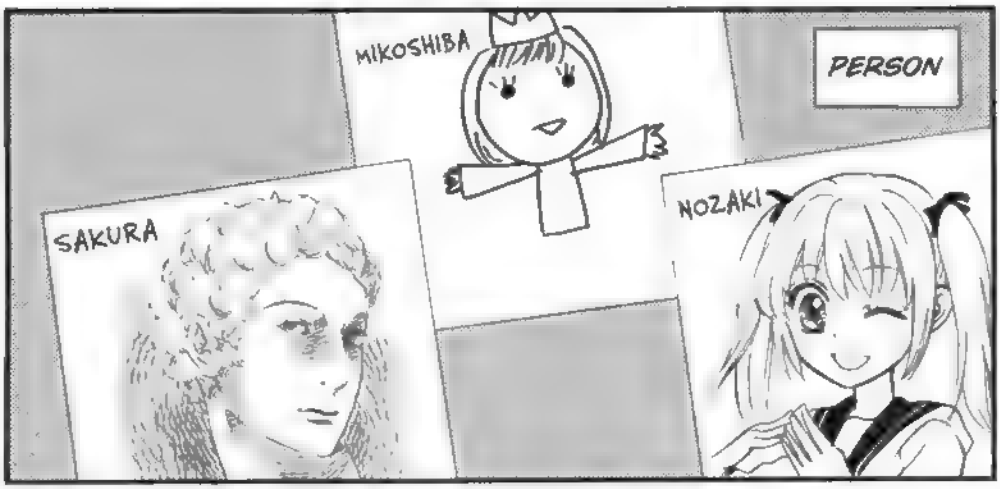
HEY, GO-FER.
I'LL HAVE A COFFEE.
'COS I'M THE SENPAI!! THE SENPAI!!
YEAH...
I GOT IT...

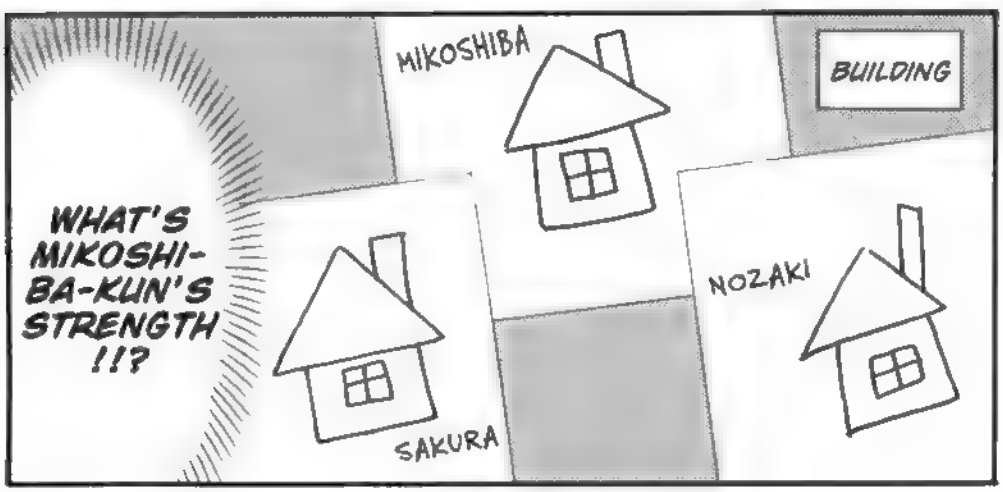
PI (BEEP)
GAKON (THUNK)
BEANS

BIKU (FLINCH)
...THERE'S NO POINT IF YOU COME TOO.
SEN-PAI...

WE'RE ON BREAK, AFTER ALL.
WHY DON'T WE...
...DO THIS?
OH!
We can figure out your strengths by having you sketch from memory.


MIKOSHIBA
DOG
SAKURA
NOZAKI


MIKOSHIBA
PERSON
SAKURA
NOZAKI


WHAT'S MIKOSHI-BA-KUN'S STRENGTH !!?
MIKOSHIBA
BUILDING
SAKURA
NOZAKI

NOW, NOW.
DON'T JUDGE ME BASED ON THAT!!
D-
MIKO-SHIBA-KUN...
...AREN'T YOU IN CHARGE OF THE BACK-GROUNDS !?
WHAT IS THIS!!?

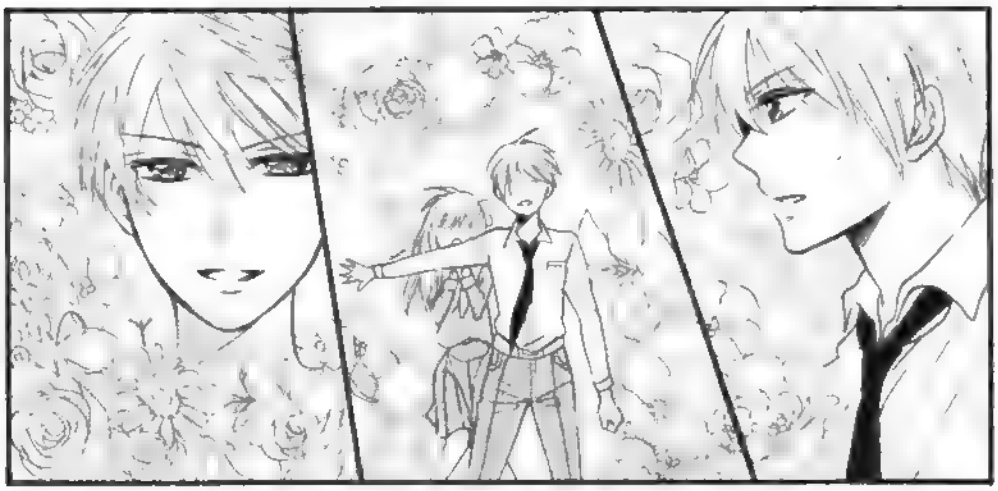
FIRST, I'LL DRAW A PERSON.
IT'LL BE FASTER TO JUST SHOW YOU.

SAKU-RA...
...DONE WITH THE BETA.
UMM.

AMAZ-ING, MIKO-RIN!!!
BUWA (FWOOSH)
I'M DONE.

LEAVE THE FLOWERS, ACCESSORIES, AND EFFECTS TO ME.
HA HA HA.
AND SO DETAILED ...!!!
THIS IS AMAZING, MIKOSHIBA-KUN! IT'S REALLY PRETTY!!!

THAT'S MY JOB.
BRINGING OUT A CHARACTER'S FULL APPEAL...



...IS ANNOYING...
THIS HERO...

KYAA!
KYAA!
KYAAA!
MIKOSHIBA-
KUUUN!

NAH...
DO YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?
...YOU REALLY ARE POPULAR ...
MIKO-SHIBA-KUN...

I'M ETERNALLY HUNTING FOR LOVE...
HA...
I'LL NEVER BELONG TO ANYONE...
I DON'T DO THAT.

DON'T BE EMBAR-RASSED, MIKORIN!!
IT'S MAKING ME EMBARRASSED TOO!!!
DON'T BE EMBAR-RASSED!!

A FINAL COAT OF EMBARRASSMENT

BUT REALLY, YOU AND MIKO-RIN...
...ARE SUCH DIFFERENT TYPES.
IT'S ODD.
YEAH.

AT FIRST, I WAS WATCHING HIM TO COME UP WITH A CHARACTER ...
...BUT THEN WE GREW CLOSER...

"TO COME UP WITH A CHARACTER" ...?
...SO THAT MEANS THERE'S A BOY IN HERE WHO'S MODELED AFTER MIKORIN...?
WHO COULD IT BE...?

IT'S THE HERO-INE.
BA (GASP)
THE HEROINE !!?

YET AGAIN, I COULDN'T BE HONEST WITH HIM...
I SHOULDN'T BE SO...
...EMBARRASSED ABOUT IT...

I'M WAITING FOR YOU TO RELY ON ME...
...SO NOTICE THAT...

C— COME ON!!!
DON'T SAY SUCH EMBARRASSING THINGS!!
STUPID!

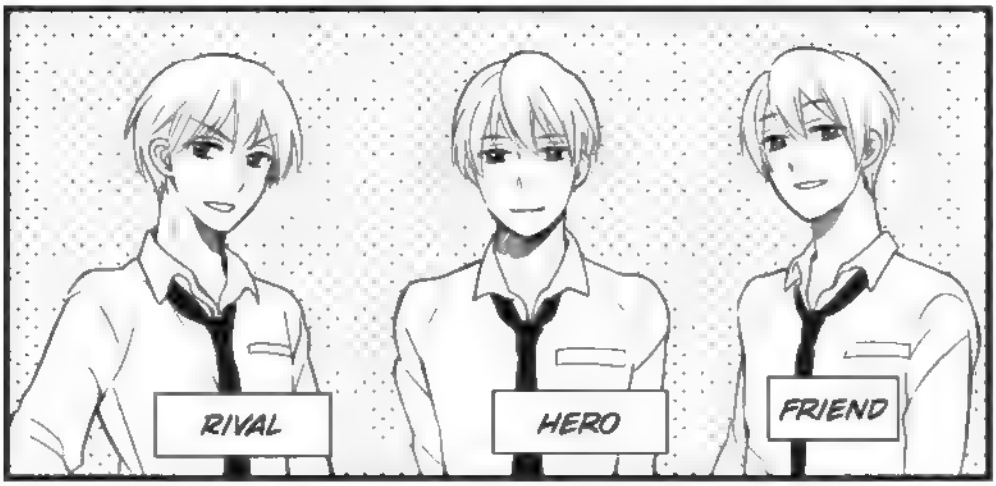
OH...
SHE REALLY IS MIKORIN...

SUBJECT: A PERSON IN FRONT OF A HOUSE
MIKOSHIBA
SAKURA
NOZAKI
IN TERMS OF BALANCE, MIKOSHIBA IS THE TOP...
Really !!?
You see that, Saku-ra!!?
This is what I can do!!!
BA (PWIP)
HUH ...?
OH, YEAH.
THAT'S RIGHT.

[ISSUE 4]

Sakiko Yumeno's manga Let's Fall in Love♡...
...is about handsome Suzuki-kun...
...shy girl Mamiko, and their heart-warming love story.

IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ME TO INTRODUCE A NEW CHARACTER, SO I THINK I'LL GO OUT PEOPLE-WATCHING.
OH YEAH. MIKORIN'S THE MODEL FOR THE HEROINE, ISN'T HE?
WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T HAVE A MODEL?


RIVAL
HERO
FRIEND

SO MANY SUZUKI-KUNS!!!
THEY ALWAYS END UP WITH MY FAVORITE FACE...

AN EXCITING TURN OF EVENTS

MAMI-KO...
...IS THE RIGHT GIRL FOR ME.
I WON'T GIVE HER TO A GUY LIKE YOU...
...WITH SUCH A LECHER-OUS FACE!!
I'M...
...NOT COOL LIKE YOU TWO...
...BUT THESE FEEL-INGS WILL WIN OUT!

SO, DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO'D FIT IN A SHOUJO MANGA?
HMM. DO I...?
MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN MY LIFE ARE PRETTY ORDI-NARY...

OH, I KNOW. THERE'S THIS GIRL YUZUKI SEO WHO'S PRETTY FLASHY!! SEE? THAT GIRL OUT-SIDE WHO'S BEING CHASED RIGHT NOW!!
OHH.
A POPULAR CHARAC-TER...
NOooo!

GET BACK HERE!!! SEOOO !!!
YOU'RE NOT GET-TING AWAY FROM US TODAY!!
DON'T YOU RUN FROM US, SEO!!!

I HAVE THE WORST LUCK.
AHH. THE TEACHERS GOT ME FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.

ISN'T THAT A BIT HARSH OF THE TEACHERS ...?
I WAS JUST TALKING TO THEM, AND THEY GOT PISSED.
I DUNNO.
DID YOU DO ANY-THING?

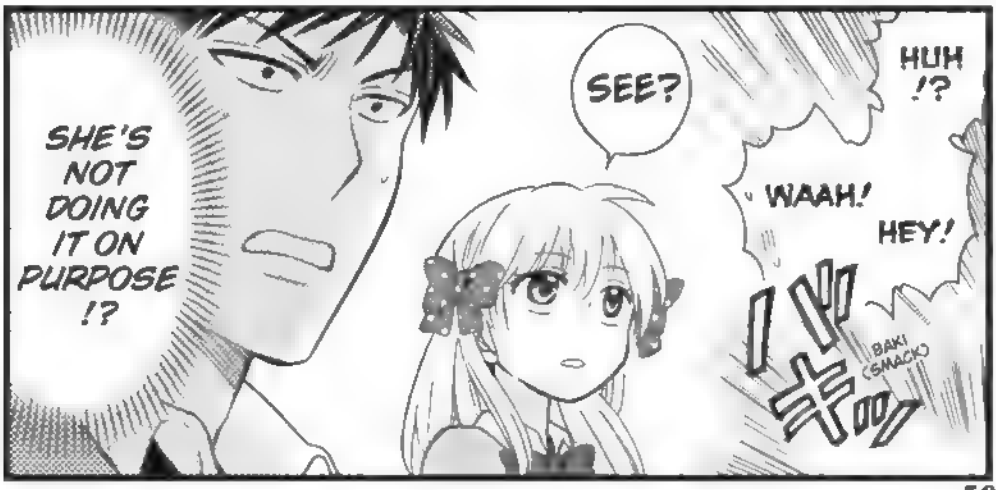
OH! I GOT IT!
WHY HAVE YOU BEEN HANGING AROUND CHIYO SO MUCH LATELY ...?
YOU'RE HUGE, SO YOU REALLY GET IN THE WAY WHEN YOU'RE NEARBY.
HMM? OH, IT'S NOZAKI FROM CLASS B.

IRA (URK)
WHOO!
PAKIN (SNAP)
YOU LIKE LITTLE GIRLS!!!

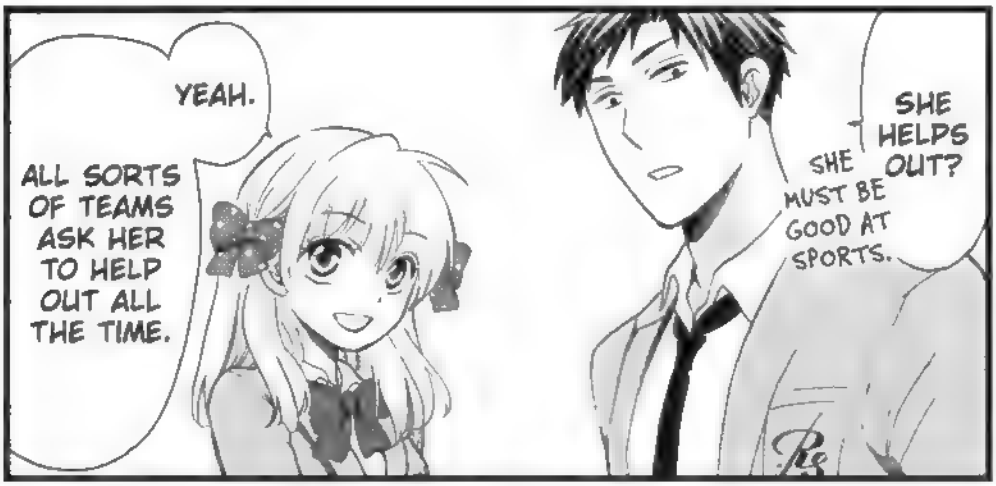
I WONDER WHY...
HUH...
FOR SOME REASON, PEOPLE GET MAD AT YUZUKI REALLY EASILY.

OHH. THAT'S GREAT!!!
OH... BUT...
IT WAS REALLY EXPEN-SIVE!
LOOK, YUZUKI!! I WORKED REALLY HARD AND BOUGHT THIS!!

YOU'RE BAG TWINS.
THE BALD GUY.
THIS BAG... THE OLD GUY WHO LIVES NEXT DOOR HAS ONE TOO.


SHE'S NOT DOING IT ON PURPOSE !?
SEE?
HUH !?
WAAH!
HEY!
BAKI (SMACK)

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
GOT IT!
SEO! THE BASKET-BALL TEAM WANTS YOU TO HELP OUT AT PRAC-TICE!!


YEAH.
ALL SORTS OF TEAMS ASK HER TO HELP OUT ALL THE TIME.
SHE HELPS OUT?
SHE MUST BE GOOD AT SPORTS.

HA HA HA HA HA
THE GAME IS ON UNTIL I'M KICKED OFF THE COURT !!!
WHO CARES IF IT'S AGAINST THE RULES !!?
LET'S WIN THIS !!!
ALL RIGHT !!

SHE HAS NO SENSE OF SPORTS-MANSHIP.
ピピピ
PIP!!! (FWEET)
NUMBER THIRTEEN, FOUL!!
APPARENTLY, THEY'RE PRACTICING FOR WHEN THEY FACE MEAN OPPONENTS.

HA HA HA HA HA HA AN
I'M FINE ON MY OWN!!!
PASS!!!
SEO-SAN! OVER HERE!!

HAHAHAHA HAHAHA
I'M FINE ON MY OWN!!!
I'M RIGHT UNDER THE NET!!
YU-ZUKI!! OVER HERE!!

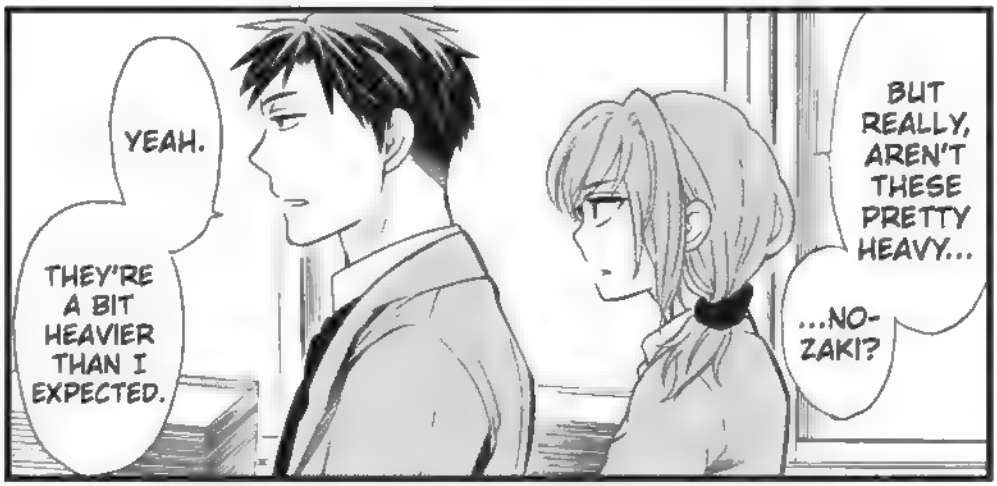
SEN-PAI!!
I SHOULD RECON-SIDER THAT...
SOME-TIMES I RUN OFF ON MY OWN AS WELL...
YOU AREN'T ANYWHERE NEAR THAT BAD!!!

SO SHE'S AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO...
PIPI!! (FWEET)
ピピ
NUMBER THIRTEEN, YOU'RE OUT OF THE GAME!
APPAR-ENTLY, SHE HELPS THEM RECOG-NIZE THE IMPOR-TANCE OF TEAM-WORK TOO.

IT'S WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE

BE-SIDES ...
...I'M ACTUALLY PRETTY CONSIDER-ATE.
PEOPLE ASK ME FOR ADVICE ALL THE TIME.
THEY ASK ME TO HELP OUT ALL THE TIME TOO.
KASHA (SNAP)
I'M ALWAYS PAYING ATTENTION TO MY SURROUND-INGS.
AND I CAN READ A SITUA-TION.
THERE WE GO.
... WAIT.
I'M PRETTY MUCH PERFECT !!
I'M A REALLY GOOD CATCH!!!
YOU'RE REALLY NOT DO-ING IT ON PURPOSE !!?

THE SUBJECT OF THE COMPETITION



THERE YOU ARE!!!
SEOOO!!!
SHIT!!
IT'S AOKI, THE SCHOOL COUN-SELOR!!!

NO-ZAKI!!
I'LL COME BACK FOR YOU LATER, SO PROTECT THESE FOR ME!!!
BA (THUMP)
HUH...?

I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU WITH THESE...
SO (GLIDE)
???
SEO...!
!

NO-ZAKI-KUN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
PROTECTING THE NOTE-BOOKS.
OF COURSE SHE NEVER CAME BACK FOR HIM.

SAKURA... I'VE FIGURED OUT SEO'S CHARACTER.
HUH!?
BUT I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU ANYTHING YET...
NO, I CAN TELL.
BASICALLY, SHE'S ...
...OBLIVIOUS!
NO... NOZAKI-KUN.
NORMALLY, YOU WOULDN'T INTRODUCE A FRIEND AND GO, "SHE'S OBLIVIOUS."
BESIDES, THAT'S NOT REALLY SOMEONE WHO FITS IN A SHOUJO MANGA, RIGHT?
HMM...
I SEE. THEN SHE'S...
...GOOD AT SPORTS AND OBLIVIOUS!!!
NOZAKI-KUN...
...DROP THE "OBLIVIOUS" PART.

IT HAS TO BE A SINGLE-PERSON ACTIVITY ...
HER CLUB...
TOTALLY FITTING FOR A SHOUJO MANGA!!
SHE'S REALLY COOL!
HER CLUB IS WHERE SHE SHINES!!
...YOU KNOW, THIS PERSON'S SINGING IS AMAZING.
...IT'S ALMOST LIKE...
SHE EVEN HAS A NICKNAME!
...THE VOICE OF AN ANGEL...
THAT FRAUD.
HER NICK-NAME...
...IS "GLEE CLUB'S LORELAI."

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
YEAH.
SHE'S A PRETTY RARE ONE...
YOU TWO AREN'T MUCH ALIKE AT ALL...
WAAAH!
GYAAA!
I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER UNDERSTAND HER...
...BEFORE YOU TWO BECAME FRIENDS...
I BET ...
...A LOT HAP-PENED ...
YOU TOO...!!!
YOU'RE GOOD...!!!
SHOULD I TELL HIM...? IT'S JUST BECAUSE OUR SEATS WERE NEXT TO EACH OTHER...
SIGH...
I GET THAT...
FEMALE FRIEND-SHIPS ARE ALL ABOUT CON-FLICT...

TRANSLATION NOTES

COMMON HONORIFICS

***-no* honorific:** Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

-sensei: A term of respect commonly used for teachers but can also refer to doctors, writers, and artists.

-senpai: Used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.

-kouhai: Used to address underclassmen or less experienced coworkers.

PAGE 6

Beta: Filling in the solid black parts of a manga.

PAGE 32

A nickname ending with an -n sound can indicate a cute and kind, soothing personality.

PAGE 79

In Japanese, "Briefs" is pronounced "Burifu." Bu-Chan can be an abbreviation of Buta-Chan with Buta meaning pig, while Buri of Buri-Chan means yellowtail.

PAGE 98

Bean-throwing is a custom where the man of the family throws roasted beans at another family member wearing a demon mask to ward off bad luck. This is mostly held on *Setsubun*—Seasonal Division Day—which is the 3rd or 4th of February.

PAGE 105

Tsundere and *Yandere* both are commonly used to categorize the characters in a dating simulation game. *Tsundere* characters are a bit cold on the outside while being shy and loving in the inside, and *Yandere* characters are more of the stalker type.

PAGE 116

Same-sex marriage is not legal in Japan. It won't be a problem in the States, Nozaki-kun!

MONTHLY GIRLS' NOZAKI-KUN

[ISSUE 5]

HMM.
A NEW CHARACTER, HUH...
YEAH!
I INTRODUCED HIM TO MY FRIEND YUZUKI THE OTHER DAY!!

SHE HAS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL VOICE. SHE'S LIKE AN ANGEL WHEN SHE SINGS...
I'M SURE NOZAKI-KUN...
...WILL MAKE A REALLY FASCINATING CHARACTER OUT OF HER...♡

...JUST THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES ME KINDA JEALOUS, EVEN AS HER FRIEND.
TEE HEE HEE.
HMM.
SO SHE'S A REALLY AMAZING GIRL...?

YOU KNOW, I...
--HAVE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.
DAMMIT!! I WANNA PUNCH HIM!!
THIS CAN'T BE HER, RIGHT...!?

SO, MIKORIN, DO YOU HAVE ANY FLASHY FRIENDS?
SOMEONE WHO'D FIT IN IN A MANGA...
ME?

Come on! Who do you think you're asking?
HEH.
There's one right in front of you!
A super-handsome playboy! ♡

.....
KAA (BLUSH)
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT!!?
I KNOW!!! I JUST WANTED TO TRY SAYING IT!!!

NO...I MEAN, MIKO-RIN...
OH NO...! I'M SO STUPID...!
THIS IS SO EMBAR-RASSING...!!
...IS THE MODEL FOR THE HERO-INE...
DOKUN (RADIMP)
SO CUTE!!

WAKU (EXCITED)
CUTE?
BEAUTIFUL?
WHAT'S THIS PERSON LIKE?
WAKU
OKAY, FINE. I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEONE WHO'D WORK.

...THE "PRINCE OF THE SCHOOL."
BE PREPARED FOR ...
YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE IT.

SUZUKI
MAMIKO
BUT MAMIKO ALREADY HAS SUZUKI-KUN...!!!
NO WAY ...!!!
!!?
A NEW PRINCE SO CLOSE TO THE HEROINE!!?

WHY!!?
MIKORIN, YOU HUSSY !!!
WAH!

WHOA!
DON (WHUD)
DA (THUD)
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA

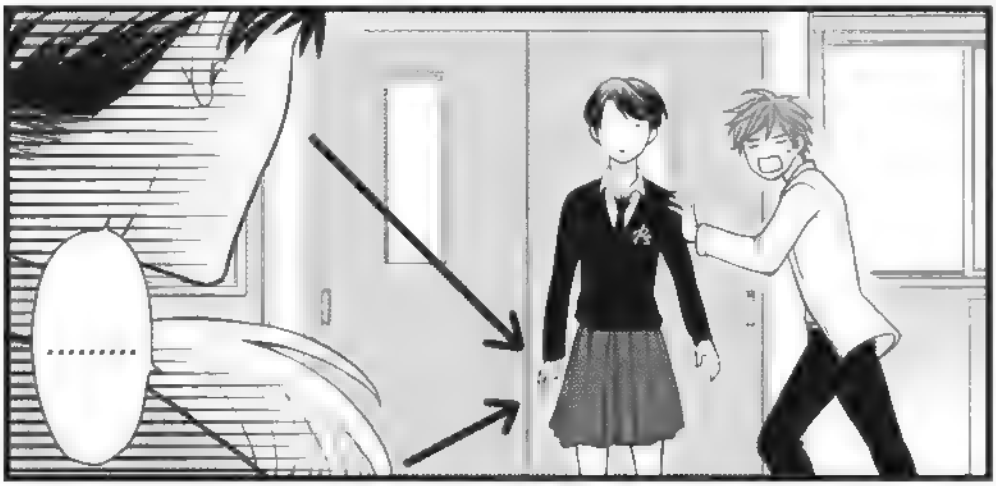
OH...
NOZAKI-KUUN...
PORO (DRIP)
OH.
SAKURA ...?

HUH?
MIKO-SHIBA IS...?
GUSU (SNIFFLE)
M—
MIKORIN IS...
GUSU

WAIT!!! IT'S ALL A MISUN-DERSTAND-ING!!!
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!!!
BA (FWIP)
!!?
WAAAAAAAH!
HE'S FLIRTING WITH ANOTHER BOY WHEN HE ALREADY HAS A BOY-FRIEND ...!!

K-
KASHI-MA!!!
PERFECT TIMING!!
ひょこっ
HYOKO (APPEAR)
MIKO-SHIBA?
WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?

THIS IS THE PRINCE!!!
BA (FWIP)
LOOK...
...YOU GUYS!!!


.....

DO SOME-THING ABOUT THAT ENTIRE IDEA FIRST!!!
WAIT! YOU KNOW I DON'T HAVE A BOY-FRIEND, RIGHT!!?
PHEW.
OH...WHAT A RELIEF...!!! HE WASN'T CHEATING WITH A BOY...!!!
PHEW.

I'M IN THE DRAMA CLUB.
HELLO. I'M YUU KASHIMA, FROM CLASS 2-G.

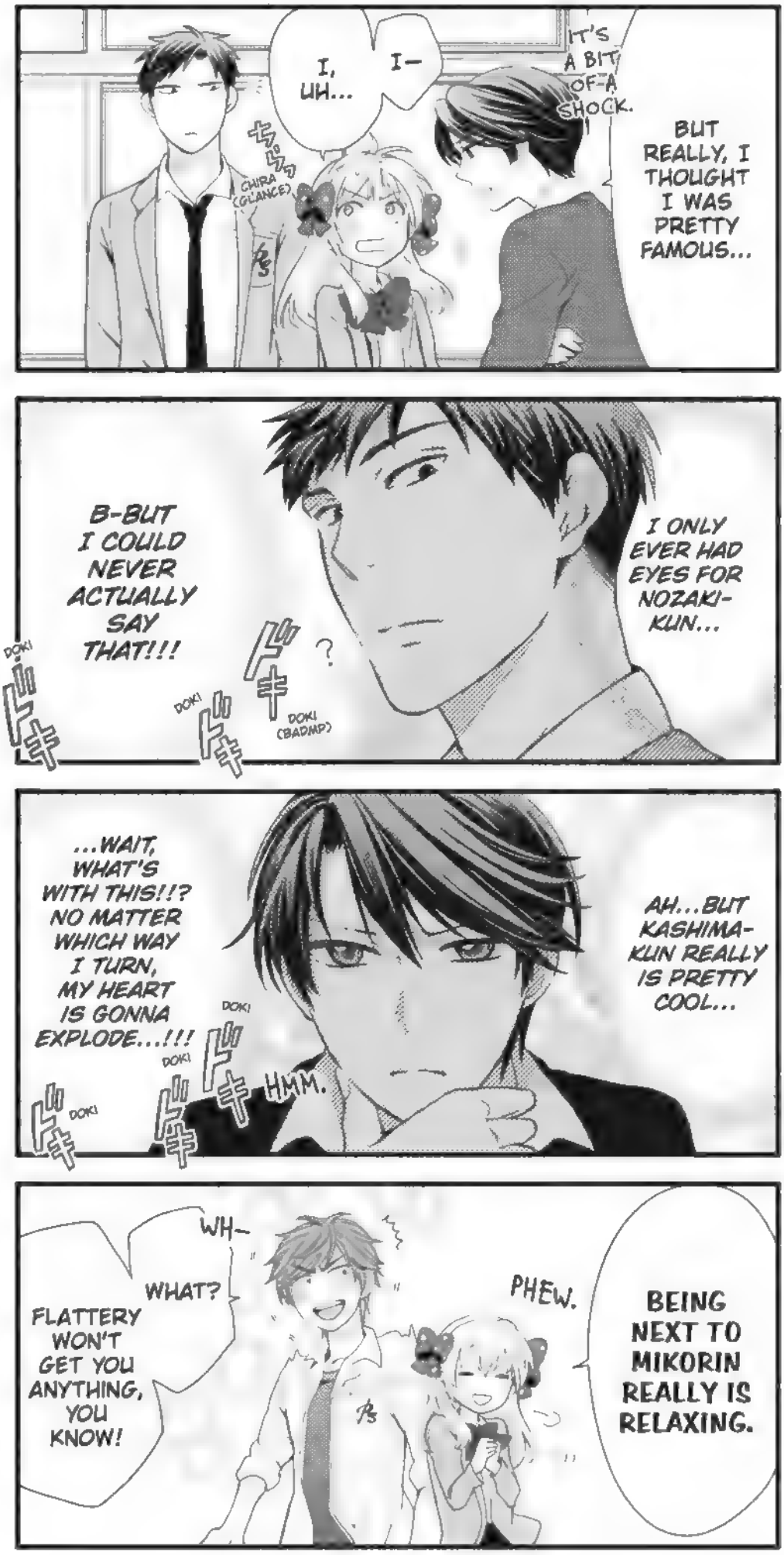
KASHI-MA-KUUUN!
THOUGH, THAT'S PART OF IT.
NAH.
...SHE'S CALLED THE "PRINCE OF THE SCHOOL" BECAUSE SHE ACTS?
COULD IT BE...
ぱた
PATA
ぱた
PATA (TROT)

No...for a moment, I thought a rose fairy had come to visit.
YEAH!! IS IT... WEIRD?
OH!
Oh?
Did you change your shampoo?

THE BOYS CALL HER THAT!?
PRINCE ...!
PRINCE ...
WE ALL CALL HER PRINCE TO HONOR HER COURAGE TO JUST NATURALLY SAY STUFF LIKE THAT.

KASHI-MA-KUN! WANT TO GO GET SOME CAKE AFTER SCHOOL?
I'D LOVE TO GO WITH YOU, PRIN-CESSES.
IT'S AMAZING, ISN'T IT?
YOU JUST DON'T CALL SOMEONE PRINCESS IN EVERY-DAY LIFE.
NOT NOR-MALLY.
I'D KINDA LIKE TO BE CALLED THAT MYSELF.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN FOREVER, KASHIMA-KUN. DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
OF COURSE I REMEMBER YOUR ADORABLE FACE.
HONESTLY!
THEN SAY MY NAME.♡
UMM.
OKAY, THEN...
PRIN-CESS! ♡
KYAA-!
SHE'S FOOLING THEM...!!!

RIVALRY → FRIENDSHIP
AT FIRST, WE WERE COMPETING AGAINST EACH OTHER.
YEAH.
WE'VE BEEN IN THE SAME CLASS SINCE WE WERE FIRST-YEARS.
SPORTS
GRADES
30
98
...
CONVERSATION
COURAGE
BOOK: CONVERSATIONAL SKILLS
YOU NEVER STOOD A CHANCE, DID YOU, MIKORIN ...!!?
WAAH!
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
AND NOW WE'RE TOTALLY FRIENDS!


I, UH...
I—
IT'S A BIT OF A SHOCK.
BUT REALLY, I THOUGHT I WAS PRETTY FAMOUS...
CHIRA (GLANCE)
B-BUT I COULD NEVER ACTUALLY SAY THAT!!!
I ONLY EVER HAD EYES FOR NOZAKI-KUN...
DOKI
DOKI (BADMP)
...WAIT, WHAT'S WITH THIS!!? NO MATTER WHICH WAY I TURN, MY HEART IS GONNA EXPLODE...!!!
AH...BUT KASHIMA-KUN REALLY IS PRETTY COOL...
HMM.
WH—
WHAT?
FLATTERY WON'T GET YOU ANYTHING, YOU KNOW!
PHEW.
BEING NEXT TO MIKORIN REALLY IS RELAXING.

!
?
YOU'RE ALL FROM DIFFERENT CLASSES.
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHAT BROUGHT YOU GUYS TOGETHER?
BUT IF NOZAKI-KUN ACTUALLY CALLS ME A FRIEND, IT WOULD BE KINDA LIKE...THERE'S NO HOPE FOR ME, AND THAT'D BE A BIT OF A SHOCK IN AND OF ITSELF...
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY? "WE'RE FRIENDS"...?
IF YOU'RE GONNA SAY ANYTHING!! LET'S SEE..! SOMETHING ABOUT BEING LIKE-MINDED OR SHARING A COMMON DESTINY OR SWEARING A BOND OF FRIEND-SHIP...?
JUST DON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE MANGA-KA STUFF!!
THAT'S JUST WAY TOO SUGGES-TIVE!!!
WE DO ALL SORTS OF THINGS TOGETHER IN A PARTICULAR ROOM IN AN APARTMENT.

TO PUT IT SIMPLY

YEAH, IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP, YOUR ESCORT WILL COME FOR YOU.
...OH, IT'S THAT TIME ALREADY !?

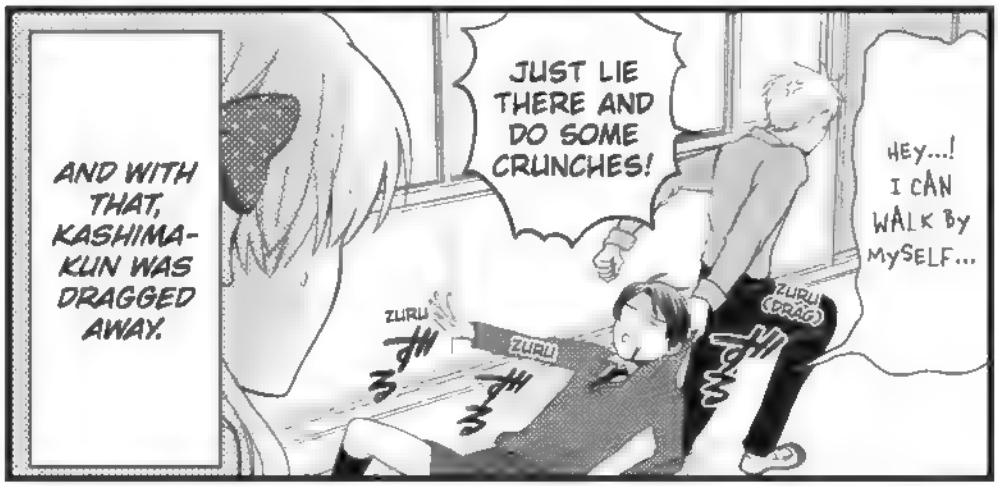
...SO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB COMES EVERY DAY TO GET HER HIMSELF.
SHE'S ALWAYS PLAYING HOOKY...
YEAH.
AN ESCORT? LIKE TO THE DRAMA CLUB?

I'VE COME TO GET YOU.
DO THEY FETCH HER IN A PIECE FROM THE SET OR SOMETHING...!?
COULD IT BE ...!?
FAIRY-TALE
YOU SHOULD SEE IT.
HER ESCORT TO THE DRAMA CLUB IS REALLY AMAZING, YOU KNOW.

SO VIO-LENT !!!
GA (THUD)
IT'S AN IMPRESSIVE FEAT OF STRENGTH.
DAMMIT, KASHI-MA!!! STOP SLACK-ING OFF!

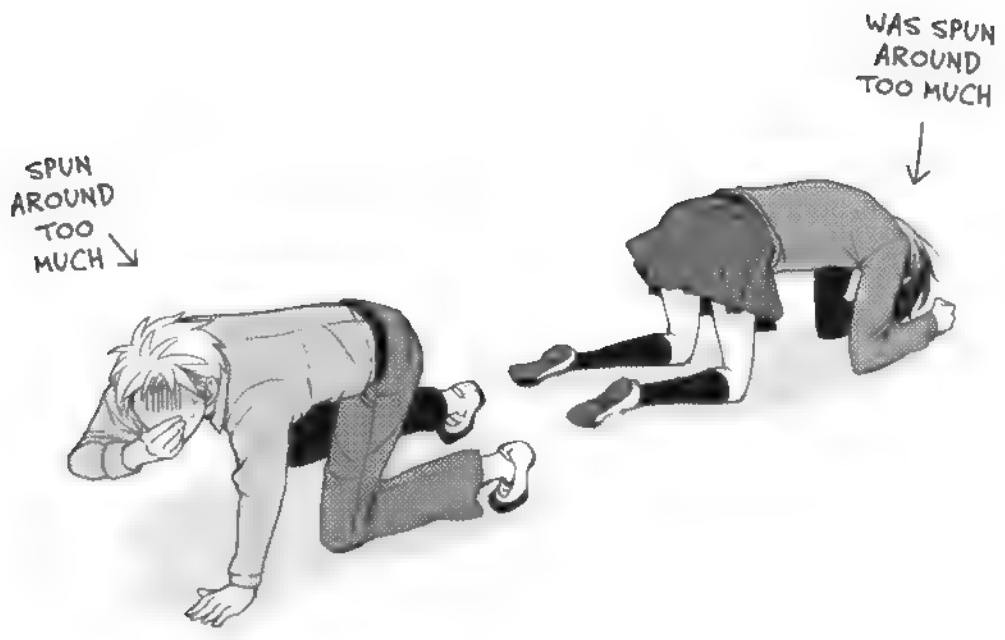
conclusion

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.

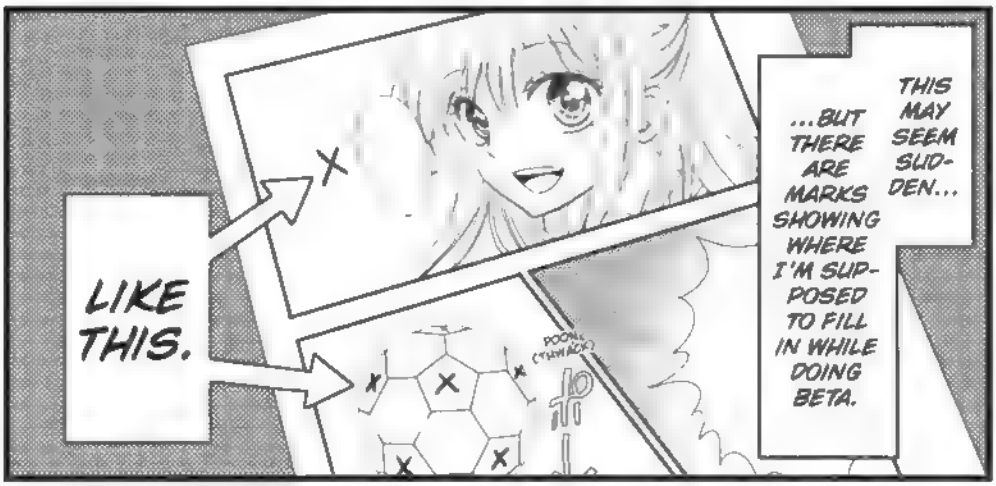

AND WITH THAT, KASHIMA-KUN WAS DRAGGED AWAY.
JUST LIE THERE AND DO SOME CRUNCHES!
ZURU
ZURU
ZURU (DRAG)
HEY...! I CAN WALK BY MYSELF...

...SHE WENT RIGHT BACK TO FLIRTING.
I'LL BE SURE TO MAKE MY ESCAPE AND COME GET YOU.
DON'T CRY.
EVEN IN THAT SITUA-TION...
KASHIMA-KUN, WHAT ABOUT YOUR PROMISE TO HAVE CAKE AFTER SCHOOL?

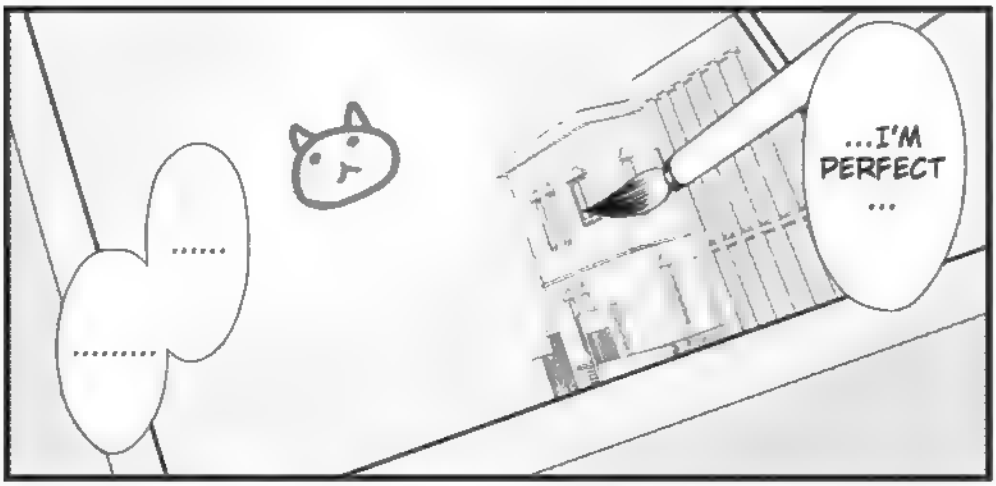
SHE MIGHT JUST BE AN IDIOT.
KYAA!
KYAA!


SPUN AROUND TOO MUCH
WAS SPUN AROUND TOO MUCH

[ISSUE 6]


LIKE THIS.
...BUT THERE ARE MARKS SHOWING WHERE I'M SUPPOSED TO FILL IN WHILE DOING BETA.
THIS MAY SEEM SUDDEN...

AT FIRST, I WAS LIKE, "WHAT IS THIS?" BUT IT'S PRETTY SIMPLE ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT.
OH. YOU'RE REALLY MASTERING THIS FAST.
YEAH, I GUESS!!
WHEN IT COMES TO KNOWING WHERE TO FILL IN...


...I'M PERFECT...
.....
.....

WHAT IS THAT!!?
WHA...!!?

THE BACK-GROUNDS?
IT'S THE SAME AS THE "X."
OH, THAT'S A BETA MARK FROM THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE BACK-GROUNDS.
...SO I'M ONLY GETTING HELP LATE AT NIGHT.
CLUB ACTIVITY TAKES PRIOR-ITY...
IS IT SOME-ONE FROM SCHOOL?
COME TO THINK OF IT, WE'VE NEVER MET...
ONLY A GIRL WOULD DRAW SUCH A CUTE MARK...
NO WAY...
カ
KATA
カ
KATA (TREMBLE)
LATE AT NIGHT!? JUST THE TWO OF THEM!!?
WAIT...
IS THIS PERSON A GIRL OR A BOY!!?

OF THESE TWO CHOICES

WAAAH
I'M GOING TO CALL YOU BRIEFS FROM NOW ON!!!
STUPID YUZUKI !!!
WELL... IF YOU AREN'T EMBARRASSED ABOUT IT, I'M FINE WITH THAT...
"BRIEFS" OR EVEN "LONG JOHNS."

SHE TRIED SAYING IT

CHIYO-CHAN, YOU'RE IN THE ART CLUB, RIGHT?
COULD YOU... ...COME HELP OUT WITH PAINTING THE SET PIECES?
SURE. WHAT HAP-PENED TO YOUR FACE?
AREN'T YOU AN ACTOR...?
WELL ... AT FIRST, I ASKED THE GIRLS HANGING AROUND ME TO HELP OUT.
KYA! I SLIPPED OUTSIDE THE LINES!!
YOU SILLY THING. WANT ME TO PAINT WITH YOU?
BASHAAN (SPLASH)
I SPILLED THE PAINT!
BECHA (GLOOP)
OH NO! I GOT MYSELF DIRTY!!
KA-SHIMA-KLULIN!
GUCHA (SQUELCH)
WHAT ARE YOU MAKING MORE WORK FOR!?
SO... ...HE HIT ME AND BROKE THE SET PIECE.
IT WAS MUTUAL DESTRUC-TION!
GA (THUNK)
SO THE PRESI-DENT MADE MORE WORK TOO...

I'M IN CHARGE OF THE SETS.
I'M HORI, THE PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB.
SORRY ABOUT THIS...

...BUT NOW I LIKE DOING THIS MORE.
OH. I USED TO ACT...
HUH? YOU DON'T ACT IN THE PLAYS?

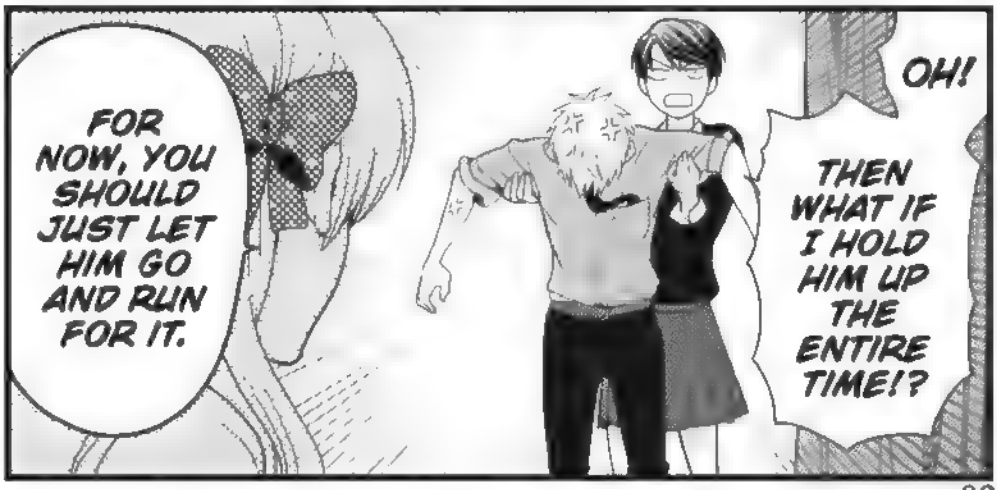
...BUT IN THE END...
...THE POOR GUY JUST STOPPED GROWING.
NAH. HORI-CHAN-SENPAI WAS GOING TO GROW TALLER AND TAKE THE LEAD BY HIS THIRD YEAR...

I'M ACTUALLY AT THE TOP OF MY GRADE...
NO...
KASHIMA-KUN, ARE YOU AN IDIOT?

BUT SENPAI REALLY IS AN AMAZING ACTOR.
IF ONLY HE WAS A BIT TALLER...
CAN'T HE PLAY ROLES FOR SHORT PEOPLE?

NAH...IF YOU JUST STICK HIM IN ANY-WHERE, HE STANDS OUT BECAUSE HE'S TOO GOOD.
THE SEVEN DWARVES WITH ONE EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD ONE
HMM.
I SEE...

WHAT ABOUT COMPEN-SATING FOR HIS HEIGHT BY PUTTING HIM ON STILTS?
STILTS WOULD TOTALLY STICK OUT.
THEN HE COULD JUST ALWAYS BE ON HORSE-BACK...
MAYBE IF IT WAS A STORY ABOUT A JOCKEY...


OH!
THEN WHAT IF I HOLD HIM UP THE ENTIRE TIME!?
FOR NOW, YOU SHOULD JUST LET HIM GO AND RUN FOR IT.

OKAY, SAKURA.
I MARKED THE SPOTS YOU NEED TO FILL IN...
...SO JUST PAINT THOSE AREAS.

OH.
IT'S A SKY BACK-GROUND.
YEAH, BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF COLORS INVOLVED, SO IT'S PRETTY TOUGH.
YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
YES!!
I'M ACTU-ALLY PRETTY GOOD...

...AT THIS STUFF ...

!!?
BA (FWIP)

COULD HORI-SENPAI BE THE BACK-GROUND PERSON ...?
I KNOW.
MAYBE I CAN FIGURE IT OUT IF I WATCH HIM WORKING ...!!
PRESIDENT!! THE GIRLS ARE FIGHTING OVER KASHIMA-KUN!!!
KASHI-MAAA!!!
WAA
WAA (CLAMOR)
WAA
PRESI-DENT, IT'S KASHI-MA!!!
HORI-CHAN! THE PRINCE !!
ENOUGH ALREADY, YOU BASTARD !!!
.....
WAA
WAA
WAA
COME ON, KA-SHIMA-KUN! JUST STAND STILL !!!
YOU'RE BOTHERING SENPAI!!!
SAKURA ...!!
YOU'RE A GOOD EGG...!!!

AN ESTABLISHED CONVERSATION

IS THERE THAT MUCH TO SAY ABOUT A PIECE OF UNDER-WEAR...?
AHH, BRIEFS.
YEAH, BRIEFS.
YES, BRIEFS.
KYA
KYA
THE TWO OF THEM WERE ODDLY INTO IT FOR A WHILE AFTER THAT.

IT'S ALL MESSED UP!!!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!!?
KA-SHIMA.
I GET IT.
SO DIRTY JOKES PUT SENPAI IN A REALLY GOOD MOOD...
BUT I SEE.
... SEN-PAI.

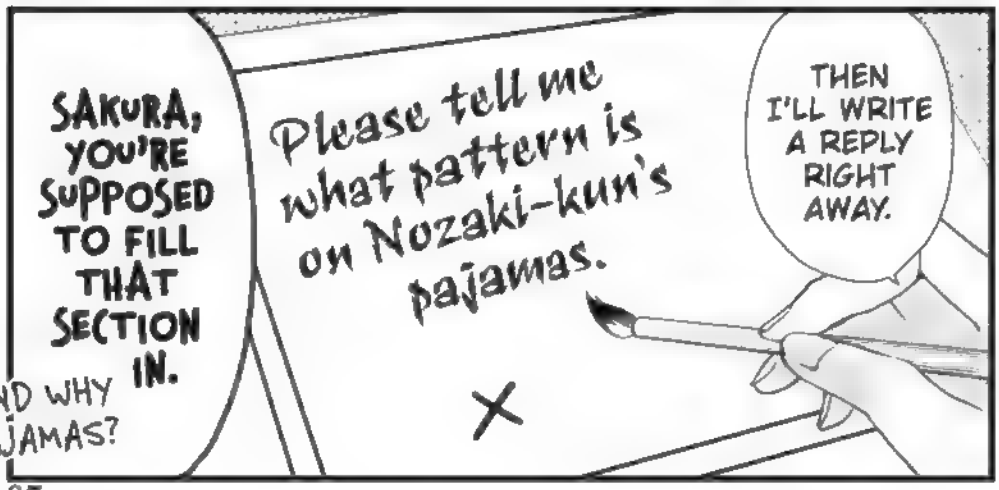
...BRIEFS?
IS YOUR...
...UNDER-WEAR...

GO! (THUD)
NOW YOU'RE HARASS-ING ME!!?

HUH !!?
HOW DID YOU KNOW!!?
YOU MET HORI-SENPAI, RIGHT?
NOZAKI-KUUN!! YESTER-DAY...

OH, HE REALLY DID!!
Thanks for the help yesterday.
BECAUSE HE WROTE IT ON THE PAGE.

NIGHTTIME, JUST THE TWO OF THEM
TEE HEE!
ガリガリ
BUBBUU (BZZZT)
AHH, BUT I'M SO RELIEVED...
...THAT SENPAI IS A GUY...


SAKURA, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO FILL THAT SECTION IN.
AND WHY PAJAMAS?
Please tell me what pattern is on Nozaki-kun's pajamas.
THEN I'LL WRITE A REPLY RIGHT AWAY.

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT PATTERN IS ON NOZAKI-KUN'S PAJAMAS!!
HEY...
DO YOU EVEN HAVE PAJAMAS?
HUH? NO... I HAVE A LOT OF T-SHIRTS AND SWEATS ...
OH, I KNOW.
I DID GET THIS FROM A FAN.
...
BIRA (FLUTTER)
Pink lace.
WHAAAAA!!?

[ISSUE 7]

EXCUSE ME.
OH, THE ROOM'S A BIT NEATER TODAY.
THAT'S BECAUSE I CLEANED IT YESTERDAY.
!!
IS IT BECAUSE ...!?
I JUST COULDN'T SETTLE DOWN WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT HOW YOU WERE COMING OVER TOMORROW...
...SOMETHING LIKE THAT!?
RURURURU (PRRR)
HELLO ...?
THIS IS NOZAKI ...
HUH?
YOU'RE HEADED OVER RIGHT NOW?
PLEASE, JUST WAIT!!
NO.
IT'S JUST NOT FIT FOR GUESTS RIGHT NOW!!
IT REALLY IS A COMPLETE MESS!!
BASA
BASA (RUSTLE)

THE GUEST

WHO'S COMING OVER?
AHH, BUT IF NORMAL PEOPLE SAW HIS ROOM LIKE THIS, THEY MIGHT BE TOTALLY SHOCKED...
OH.

THAT'S SOMEONE WHO'S TOTALLY IN THE INDUSTRY!!
MY EDITOR.

THAT'S THE SORT OF REAC-TION YOU HAVE WHEN YOUR GIRL-FRIEND'S COMING OVER.
HONESTLY!
THEN YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE TO CLEAN UP SO FRANTI-CALLY...

THIS PERSON'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN A GIRL-FRIEND...!?
NO.
I DON'T THINK I'D PANIC LIKE THIS IF MY GIRLFRIEND WAS COMING.

THE EDITOR

WH—
WHAT'S YOUR EDITOR LIKE...?
LET'S SEE...
A REALLY COOL ADULT.

B-BUT...
...THEN I MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE IN TEN YEARS...!!
IT'S DEADLINE TIME, BOY.
SO HE'S INTO MATURE WOMEN ...!?

I'M HERE TO GET YOUR MANUSCRIPT.
AFTER-NOON.

I'LL NEVER HAVE A CHANCE!

THIS MAN IS A "COOL ADULT" ...!?
OH.
HELLO.
SAKURA.
THIS IS MY EDITOR, KEN MIYAMAE-SAN.

I WANNA GET GOING RIGHT AWAY, SO NO THANKS.
ONE, TWO, THREE.
KEN-SAN.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?

THERE'S LOTS OF DIALOGUE, SO I NEED TO GET BACK RIGHT AWAY TO START PROOF-READING.
LET'S SEE...
KYU (GRIP)
OH.
HOW'S THE STORY THIS TIME?

NOZAKI-KUN, DOES HE HATE YOU...?
SO COOL!!!
SO?
HE'S COOL, ISN'T HE?
OKAY, THANKS.
BATAN (SHUT)

PACHIN (FLIP)
HE ALSO REPLIES QUICKLY.
...KEN-SAN'S APPEAL ISN'T JUST IN HOW COOL HE IS.
JUST SO YOU KNOW...
okay.
PIRORIIN (DING-DONG)
WHEN I SEND HIM MY THUMBS, TEN MINUTES LATER...
I got the revisions.
PIRORIIN
WHEN I SEND HIM AN E-MAIL, FIVE MINUTES LATER...
NOZAKI-KUN, ARE YOU SURE HE DOESN'T HATE YOU?
Please text me.
PIRORIIN
AND WHEN I CALL HIM, A MINUTE LATER...

OHH.
HOW SLOW ARE WE TALKING?
BEING SLOW IS A PAIN.
BUT I REALLY DO APPRECIATE PEOPLE WHO GET BACK TO ME QUICKLY, JUST FOR IT'S OWN SAKE.

A YEAR!?
ONE YEAR.

Our editor in chief hadn't been back, so it's been a bit delayed.
About the thumbs you sent in a year ago...
It's been quite a while.

HE COULDN'T COME UP WITH A BETTER EXCUSE!?
I WONDER IF THE EDITOR IN CHIEF WAS ON SAFARI OR SOMETHING...
THE REASONING WAS JUST SO INSANE THAT I KIND OF LET IT SLIDE.

GOKI (CRACK)
ゴキッ
AHH.
I'M EXHAUSTED.
THINKING UP STORIES, DRAWING ART, FOLLOWING IT ALL THROUGH...
HE PROBABLY DEALS WITH RUNNING OUT OF IDEAS OR HAVING REALLY STIFF SHOULDERS ...
THINGS MUST BE REALLY ROUGH FOR NOZAKI-KUN...
WHAT'S THE HARDEST PART OF DOING MANGA?
... WELL...
THE THUMBS?
THE ROUGH SKETCHES?
PROBABLY DEALING WITH PEOPLE.
THAT, OF ALL THINGS !?
AND IN THIS KIND OF WORKPLACE!!?

WHAT IF THEY GO TO SCHOOL AND YOU ADD IN A NEW CHARACTER?
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN FROM NOW ON.
HIS PREVIOUS EDITOR, MAENOSHI
WELL, YEAH...
THAT'S TRUE.
IT'S A SCHOOL STORY, SO OF COURSE THEY'LL GO TO SCHOOL. AND IT'S ONLY NORMAL TO HAVE NEW CHARACTERS SHOW UP.
AHAHAHAHA!
THAT WAS MY IDEA, WASN'T IT?
I SAW IT! THE NEW CHARACTER!!
NOZAKI-KUN, YOU SHOULD GROW UP A LITTLE.
I JUST COULDN'T LOVE IT.
I SCRAPPED THAT CHARACTER IN THE NEXT CHAPTER.

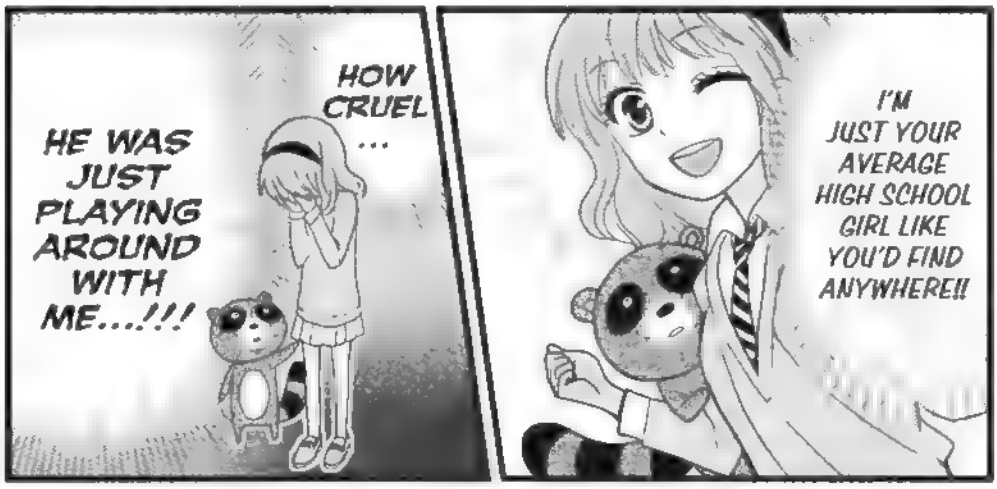
MAYBE I'LL DO A VALENTINE'S DAY STORY...
FEB-RUARY, HUH...?
February
14
SEASONAL STORIES WORK WELL WHEN I'M STUCK FOR IDEAS.

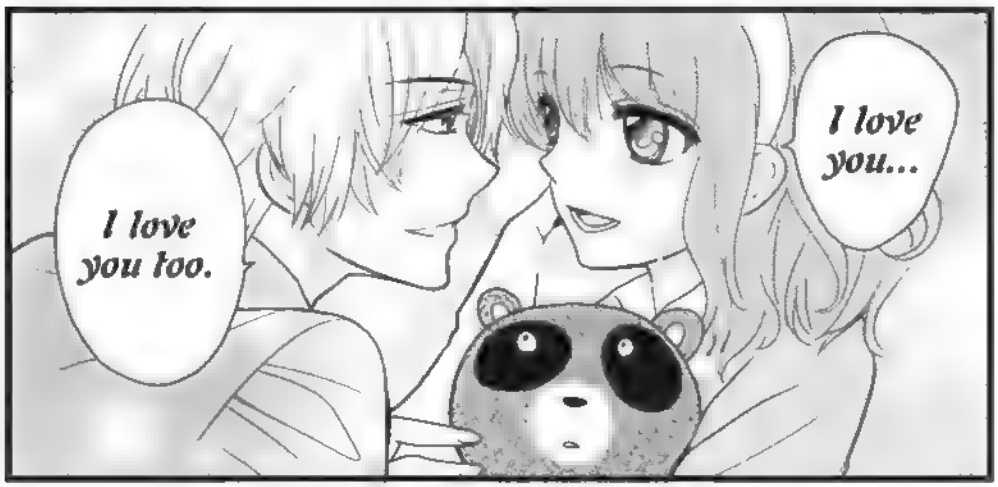
Oh!
How about a story for Valen-tine's Day?
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, ISN'T IT?
UM...
NEXT TIME...

HE HAS BEANS, AND HE'S COMING RIGHT AT ME...!!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO...!!? AM I THE DEMON...!?
DOKI
DOKI (BADMP)

IT WAS MY IDEA, WASN'T IT!?
UGH...
I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR HIM SAY THAT LINE...
IT WAS FUN THOUGH...
I DID WONDER... WHY THEY WERE DOING THE BEAN-THROWING...

?
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
BUT RECENTLY, I'VE COME TO REALIZE THAT I ACTUALLY HAD IT EASY.


HOW CRUEL ...
HE WAS JUST PLAYING AROUND WITH ME...!!!
I'M JUST YOUR AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL LIKE YOU'D FIND ANYWHERE!!


I love you too.
I love you...

IT'S HER EDITOR'S PERSONAL PREFER-ENCE.
MAENO-SAN REALLY LIKES TANUKI.
WHY IS THIS TANUKI ALWAYS THERE?

WORKS IN OTHER GENRES

WAY TO GO, KEN-SAN

I'M REALLY HAPPY TO HAVE MET KEN-SAN.
IF HE EVER CHANGES DEPARTMENTS, I'LL GO WITH HIM.
EVEN IF IT'S A BOYS' MAGAZINE OR A WOMEN'S MAGAZINE.
THAT'S REALLY HEAVY!!!

So basically, he's telling me, "Become the best in shoujo manga"...
WAY TO GO, KEN-SAN.
YOU ARE ODDLY POSITIVE WHEN IT COMES TO KEN-SAN.

It's almost summer, so it's all about the pool! The ocean!! Summer festivals!!!
I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SUMMER BREAK...
THEN ...
TWO MONTHS LATER
IT'S FALL ...

BOOK: SUMMER BREAK'S DATE SPOTS

[ISSUE 8]

NO-ZAKI.
CAN I STAY OVER TONIGHT?
YEAH.
SURE.
THAT WOULD BE NICE ...
WHAT DO YOU USUALLY DO?
STAYING OVER...

WELL...
I ASK HIM FOR ADVICE.
MOSTLY ABOUT GIRLS.

Asuka
Sayuri
Which one do you go home with!?

NO-ZAKI !!!
WHICH ONE SHOULD I GO HOME WITH!?
HMM.
PROBABLY ASUKA...
SHE LOOKS KIND-OF PISSED.

THE FRUITS OF HIS STUDY

12人の女の子とコミュニケーション
THREE YEARS AGO...
...I HAD A REALLY HARD TIME TALKING TO REAL GIRLS...
...SO I DECIDED TO DO SOME STUDYING.
AN ENSEMBLE CAST...
THIS IS IT...!!!

GAME: COMMUNICATION WITH TWELVE GIRLS♡

BUT ...
...IT TURNS OUT WOMEN ARE PROFOUND CREATURES.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE TSUNDERE, BUT YOU'RE REALLY YANDERE...!?
YOU TOTALLY LOVED THIS PRESENT LAST TIME!!
THERE'S SUCH A THING AS BEING TOO FICKLE, YOU KNOW!!!
WE WERE DOING SO WELL, AND NOW YOU DUMP ME...!?
I DON'T GET IT!!!

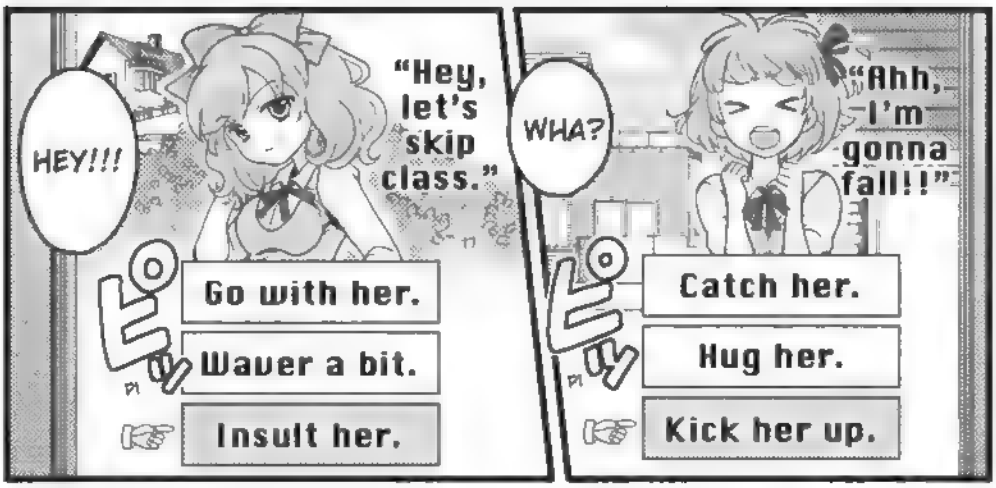
WHAA ...?
IT SOUNDS LIKE A PAIN...
YOU'LL GET INTO IT!!
YOU NEED TO TRY THIS SOMETIME TOO!!

THAT I LIKE...
WELL, THEN...
JUST PUT IN A NAME THAT YOU LIKE.
Enter the main char-acter's name.

...USED THE NAME OF THE HERO OF HIS OWN MANGA...!?
HE MUST REALLY LIKE IT!!
HE...
!?
Saburou Suzuki
PI (BEEP)

WAIT... DO YOU ACTUALLY HATE HIM INSTEAD!?
Suzuki (LOL)
Enter a nick-name.

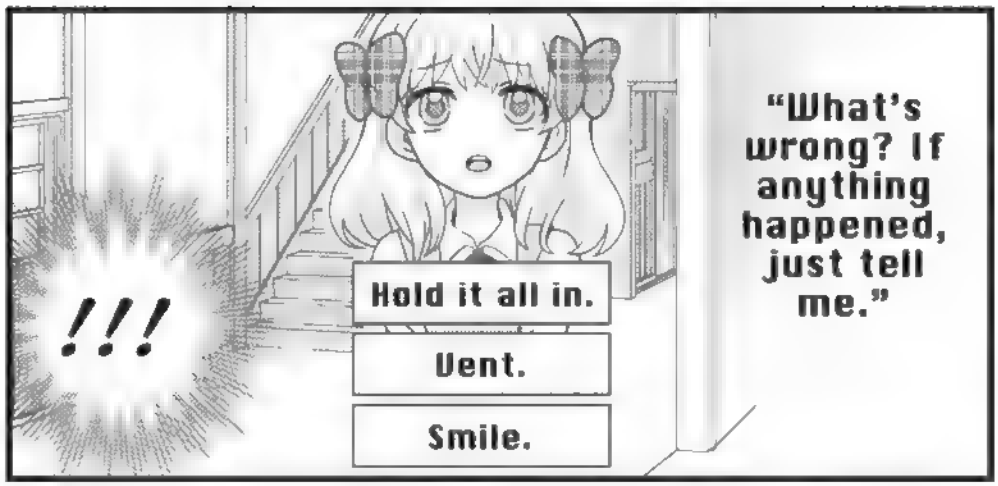
ピッ
"Nice to meet you!"
ALL RIGHT! FIRST OFF, YOU ANSWER WITH...
HUH?
"Hello."
"You're cute!"
"Get lost!!"


HEY!!!
"Hey, let's skip class."
Go with her.
Waver a bit.
Insult her.
WHA?
"Ahh, I'm gonna fall!!"
Catch her.
Hug her.
Kick her up.

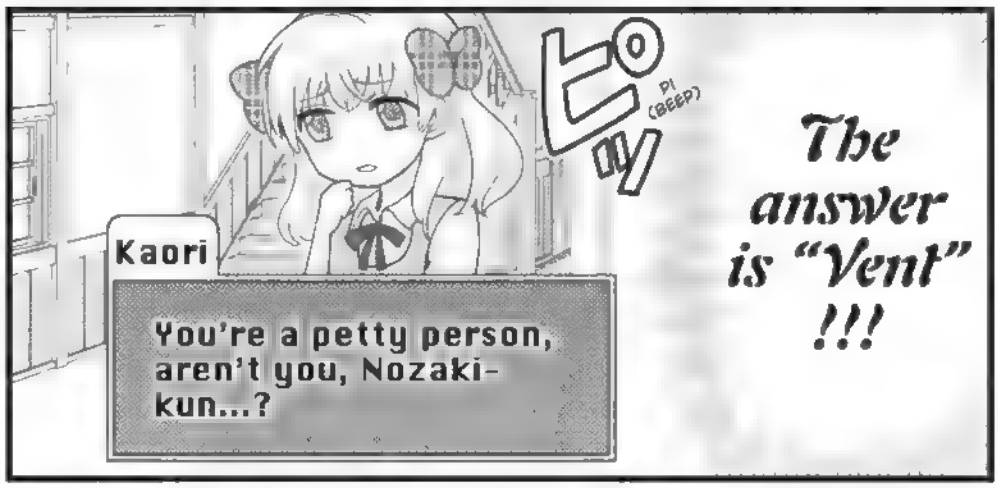
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THAT'S NOT RIGHT!!!
NO-ZAKI!!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
.....
...KI...

CHANGE IT RIGHT NOW!!!
WHY DID YOU EVEN CHOOSE THAT NAME!!?
ONE TRUE PAIRING!!
SUZUKI WOULD NEVER STRAY FROM MAMIKO WITH ANOTHER GIRL!!!

HMM...
PICK ONE OF THESE.
IT'S EASIER TO START OFF BY STICKING TO JUST ONE GIRL.
THEN...
The kind classmate.
!!
...I'LL DO THIS ONE.
NOZAKI...
DOESN'T SHE...KINDA LOOK LIKE SAKURA...?
COULD IT BE...?
DON'T READ THE SPOILERS !!!
IT SAYS SO ON THE WEB.
HER PLOT-LINE IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE BEST ONE.


!!!
Hold it all in.
Vent.
Smile.
"What's wrong? If anything happened, just tell me."

THE HEROINE'S HEART SHOULD SKIP A BEAT AT SEEING THIS WEAKNESS ONLY SHE GETS TO GLIMPSE...
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS BEFORE...!!!
SORRY FOR COMPLAINING LIKE THAT...
IF THIS WERE A SHOUJO MANGA, THIS WOULD GO IN A SET PATTERN...
DOKIN (BADMP)


Kaori
You're a petty person, aren't you, Nozaki-kun...?
PI (BEEP)
The answer is "Vent" !!!

JUST STOP TRYING TO DO DATING SIMS FROM A GIRL'S POINT OF VIEW...
I DON'T GET IT...!!!
I JUST CAN'T FOLLOW THIS GIRL'S FEELINGS ...!!!
WHY ...!?

HERE.
NO.
THERE'S NO NEED TO ACTUALLY CALL HER...
PURU-RURURU (PRRRRR)
TRY ASKING SAKURA ABOUT IT.
BESIDES, GIRLS JUST GET DISAPPOINTED WHEN YOU SHOW THEM YOUR WEAK SIDE.

ドキーッ
DOKKI! (BA-THUMP)
...Sa-kura.
N-NO-ZAKI-KUN!?
HELLO...
AH!

UH...
I'M STARTING TO DOUBT MY OWN THOUGHTS...
SORRY FOR CALLING SO LATE...

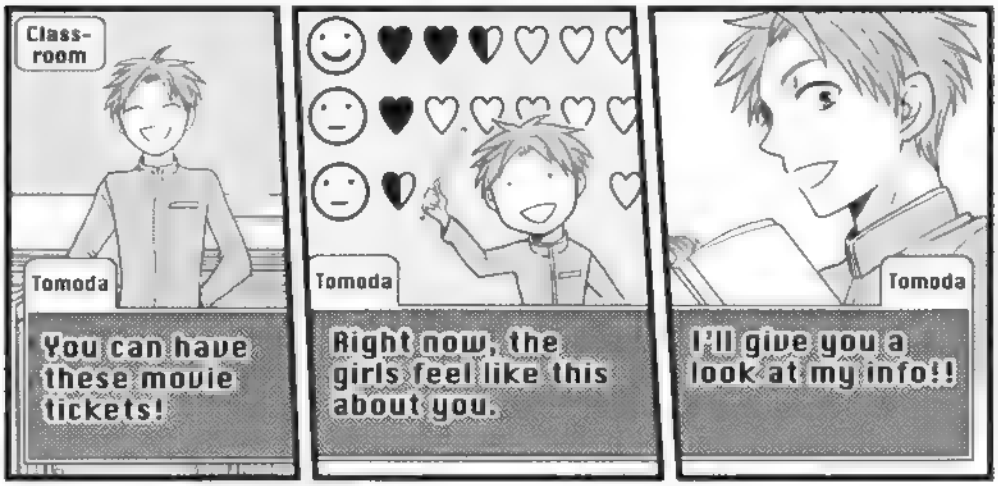
NOZAKI-KUN'S SHOWING WEAK-NESS ...!?
NIKOSHIBA LOST.
KYUUN (TWINGE)
Never mind... just forget about it...

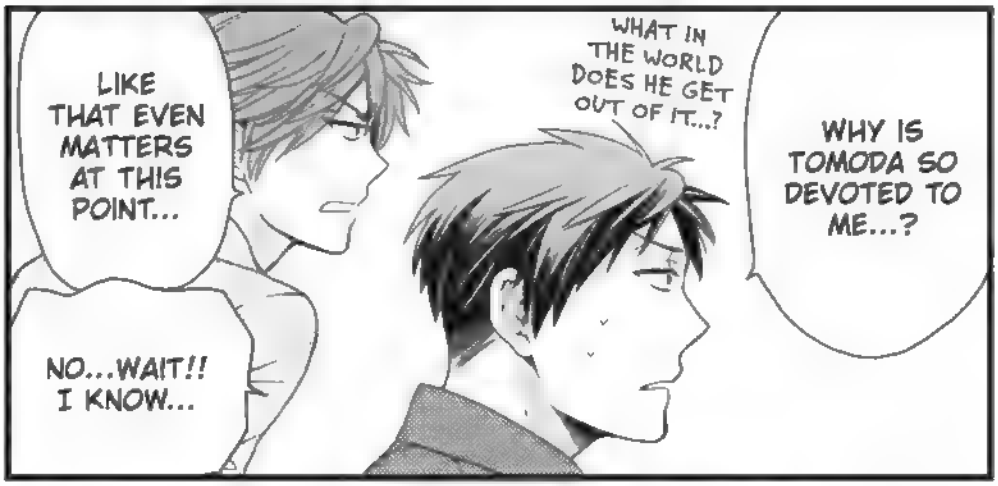
IN THE END, THEY DRIVE HER TO DESPAIR.
...ARE ACTUALLY THE MASTER-MINDS BEHIND BULLYING THE MAIN CHARACTER.
LET'S BE FRIENDS!!
I KNOW ABOUT THIS STUFF.
FRIENDS WHO GET ALL CHUMMY LIKE THIS...

PAPERS: UGLY, CATERPILLAR, MANDRAGORA, GRATIN

THAT WOULD BE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT GAME!
IT WOULDN'T EVEN BE ROMANCE!
"...I'VE HATED YOU!"
"THE TRUTH IS THAT, EVER SINCE I MET YOU...
AND THEN THIS LINE...

.....
IF YOU INSIST...
OZU (NERVOUS)
おず
ozu おず
SEE?
JUST CALM DOWN AND USE THE FRIEND...


Class-room
Tomoda
You can have these movie tickets!
Tomoda
Right now, the girls feel like this about you.
Tomoda
I'll give you a look at my info!!


LIKE THAT EVEN MATTERS AT THIS POINT...
NO...WAIT!! I KNOW...
WHAT IN THE WORLD DOES HE GET OUT OF IT...?
WHY IS TOMODA SO DEVOTED TO ME...?

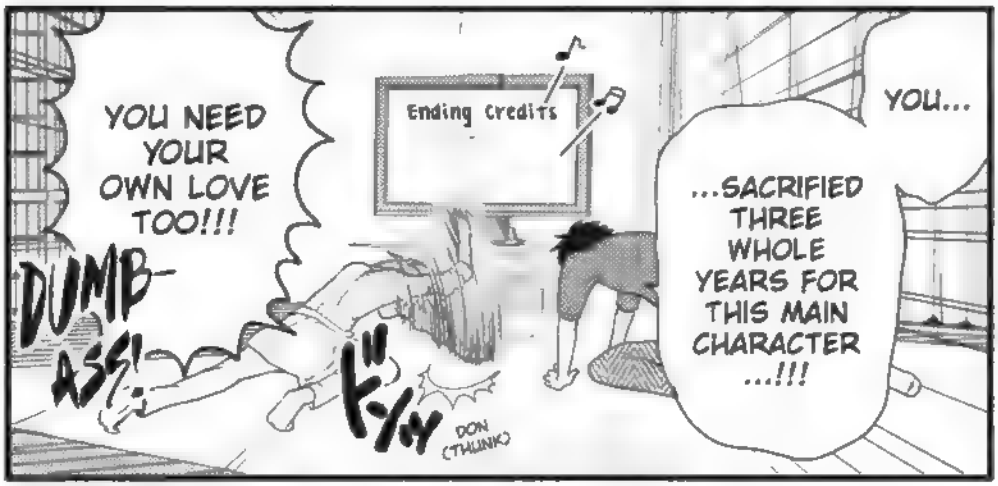
DON'T MAKE EVERY-THING ABOUT ROMANCE!!!
AGAIN, THAT WOULD MAKE IT AN ENTIRELY DIF-FERENT GAME!!!
SUCH CHARM!!!
HE HAS FEELINGS FOR THE MAIN CHARAC-TER!!

I'LL TAKE IT SERIOUSLY...
SORRY...
I'LL JUST WORK ON THE END GOAL.
UGH...YOU KEEP GOING TO TOMODA, SO NOW EVEN I'M STARTING TO WONDER ABOUT IT...

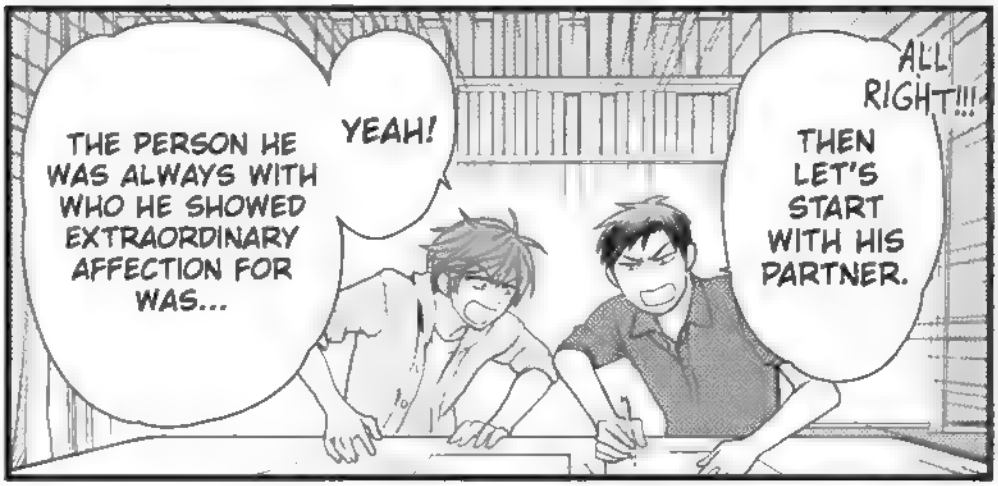
The climax
Don't give up!! You love her, don't you!!?
Field trip
Tomoda
I'll distract them, so you get going!
Going to and from school
Tomoda
Hey, you two. You getting close on the way to school?

Graduation
Tomoda
These three years just flew by. I'm so glad I met you!

WAAH!
TOMODAA!!!


YOU NEED YOUR OWN LOVE TOO!!!
DUMB-ASS!
Ending Credits
DON (THUNK)
YOU...
...SACRIFIED THREE WHOLE YEARS FOR THIS MAIN CHARACTER ...!!!

LET'S GIVE HIM HIS HAPPY ENDING!!!
YEAH!!!
FOR OUR TOMODA!!!
BA (FWOOSH)
I'M GONNA MAKE YOU YOUR OWN STORY!!!


THE PERSON HE WAS ALWAYS WITH WHO HE SHOWED EXTRAORDINARY AFFECTION FOR WAS...
YEAH!
ALL RIGHT!!!
THEN LET'S START WITH HIS PARTNER.

...THE MAIN CHARAC-TER!!!
GASP.

LATE NIGHT ENERGY

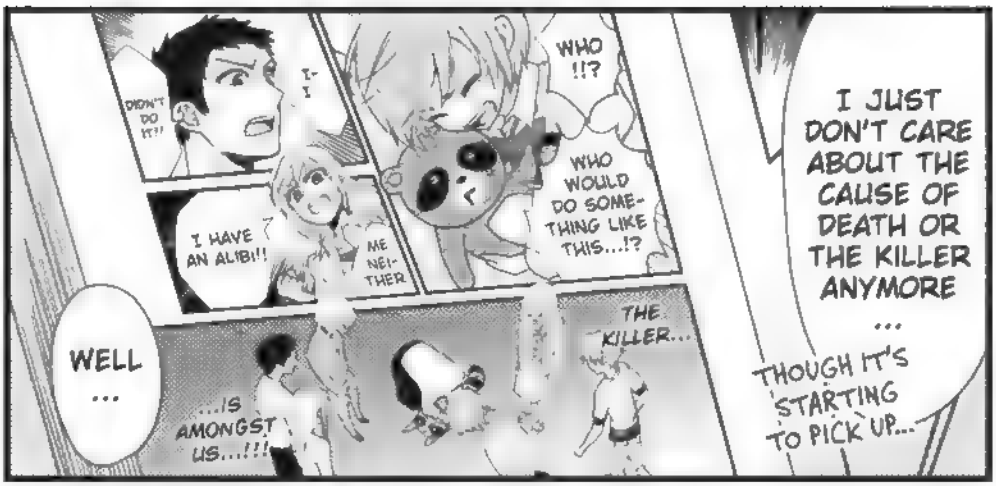
SHOUJO MANGA ARE SUPPOSED TO END WITH A WEDDING.

[ISSUE 9]

MAGAZINE: SPECIAL GIRLS' ROMANCE

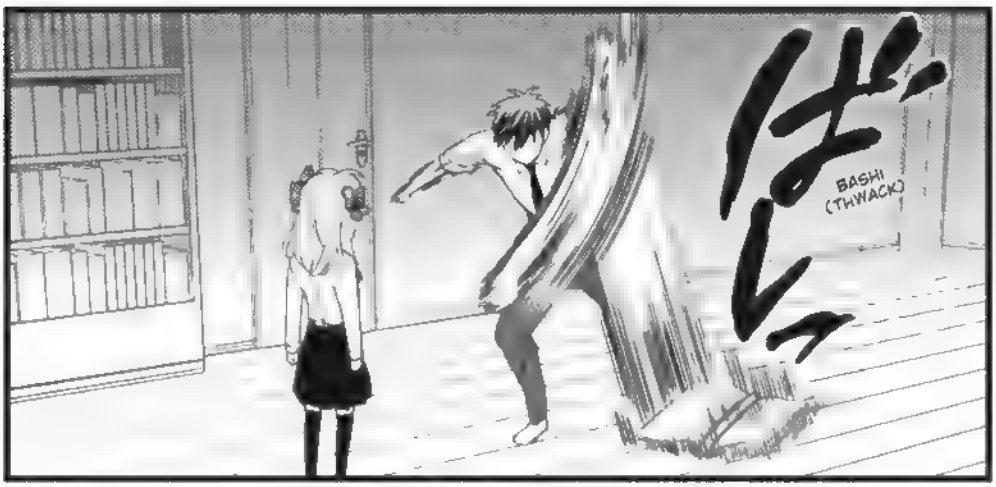
YU-KARI MIYA-KO...
... IS AN EAGER CREATOR WHO'S DONE EVERY-THING FROM FANTASY TO HIS-TORICAL.
THE TEARS OVERFLOWED AND JUST WON'T STOP...
BUT BECAUSE OF HER EDITOR'S QUIRK, THERE'S A TANUKI IN ALL OF HER WORKS, NO MATTER WHAT.
都ゆかり
YUKARI MIYAKO

SO THIS TIME IT'S A HARD-CORE MYSTERY ...?
SHE REALLY HAS SO MANY IDEAS.
BUT SINCE IT'S SO SERIOUS...
...THE TANUKI REALLY CAN'T MAKE AN APPEAR-ANCE THIS...


I JUST DON'T CARE ABOUT THE CAUSE OF DEATH OR THE KILLER ANYMORE ...
THOUGH IT'S STARTING TO PICK UP...
WHO !!?
WHO WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS...!?
THE KILLER...
I-I
DIDN'T DO IT!!
I HAVE AN ALIBI!!
ME NEITHER
WELL ...
...IS AMONGST US...!!!

...THE STORY ITSELF IS INTERESTING.
THE DISAPPEARING MURDER WEAPON.
THE RETREATING FIGURE OF THE KILLER THAT ONLY THE MAIN CHARACTER SAW...
I'LL HAVE TO READ ...

...THE NEX—
WHO IN THE WORLD WAS THAT...!!?
TO BE CONTINUED!
NEXT TIME, THE KILLER IS SHOWN TO BE YAMAMOTO-SAN!!!


BASHI (THWACK)

IF THEY'RE BORROWING THINGS FROM EACH OTHER, THEN THEY MUST BE CLOSE...
IS IT SOY SAUCE...OR SALT...?
WH-WHAT SORT OF RELATION-SHIP DO THEY HAVE...?
そわ
SOWA (NERVOUS)
そわ
SOWA
SHE... MUST BE A NEIGHBOR...

LABEL: SUMI INK

HER IMPRESSION

OH...
WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
NOZAKI'S OLD EDITOR
MAENO-SAN WAS HERE UNTIL JUST A BIT AGO.
SO WE ENDED UP GOING TO HER PLACE.

THAT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH MANGA!!!
HE SAID THEIR SKIRTS ARE SO SHORT YOU CAN SEE THEIR PANTIES.
WELL ...
ABOUT THE IDOLS HE'S INTO RIGHT NOW...I GUESS.
GIFTS

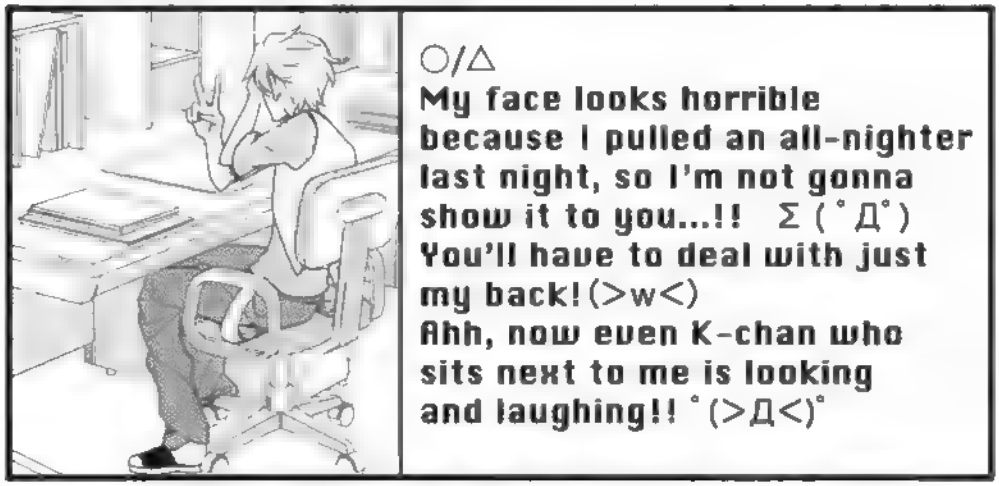
OH.
ABOUT THAT ...
LIKE SOME PASSIONATE TALK ABOUT MANGA...?
I MEAN, DID YOU...
...MAYBE DISCUSS IDEAS OR SOME-THING?

THAT'S JUST INSANE.
HE SAID THEY'RE THE NEXT CUTEST AFTER TANUKI...
...HE ASKED IF I COULD DO AN ELEPHANT NEXT.

ARE YOU PUTTING ONE IN...?
WH—
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO...?
... WELL ...
BUT...
...CAST A SPELL ON ME...
...AN EVIL MAGI-- CIAN...
I'M A-KO, A-NORMAL GIRL.
WHAT...IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME!!?
...AND NOW I'M IN ANOTHER WORLD...!!
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM HERE!!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
THE ELEPHANT'S JUST SO BIG THAT I CAN'T PUT ANY BACK-GROUNDS IN...

COME TO THINK OF IT, THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT OF GIRLS' ROMANCE HAS STARTED A BLOG.
OHH. WANT TO SEE IT?
DO THEY INTRODUCE THE MAGAZINE AND STUFF LIKE THAT?

○/×
Hello, it's Maeno.
I'm going a bit modern with a black knit vest and white pants today.
Don't fall for me!!!
(･ε-*)-☆

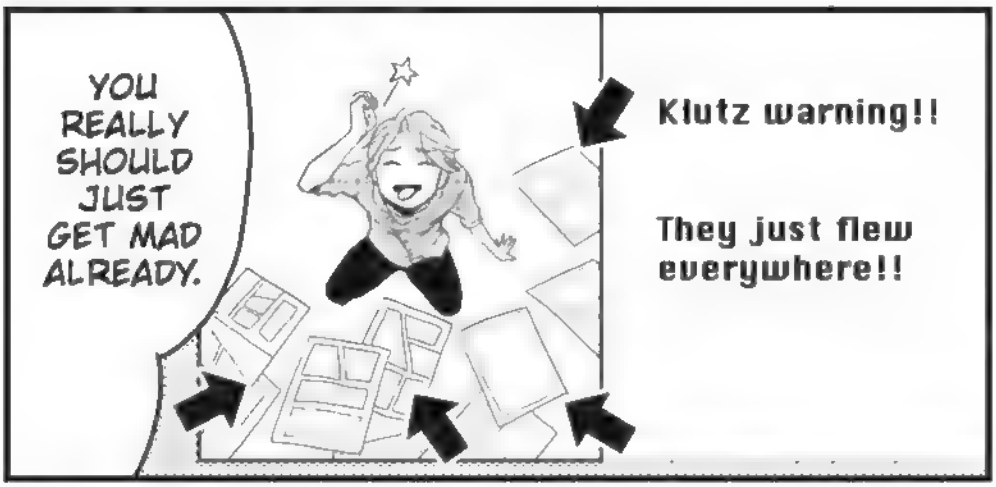


○/△
My face looks horrible because I pulled an all-nighter last night, so I'm not gonna show it to you...!! Σ(ﾟДﾟ)
You'll have to deal with just my back!(>w<)
Ahh, now even K-chan who sits next to me is looking and laughing!! ﾟ(>Д<)ﾟ

WHERE?
HUH?
OH.
BUT MY MANU-SCRIPT'S THERE TOO.

○/×
I got a manuscript in!
It's so hot today!

○/×
It's lunchtime in the editorial department!!
I'm currently looking for a girl who'll cook for me!!


YOU REALLY SHOULD JUST GET MAD ALREADY.
Klutz warning!!
They just flew everywhere!!

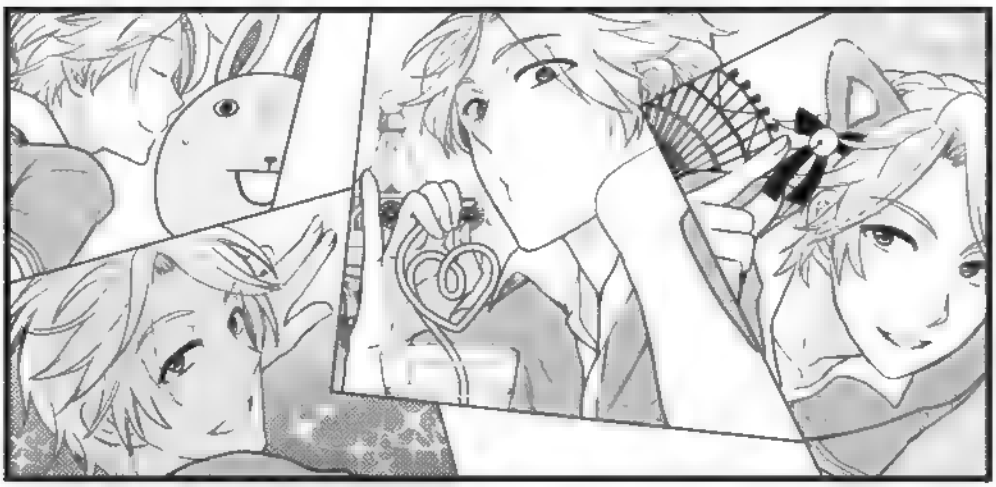
I KIND OF LEFT SOME-THING BEHIND.
SORRY... ... MIYAKO-SENSEI!

OHH?
WHAT TIMING...
MAENO IN THE FLESH ...!!!
...OH. COULD IT BE ...!?
YUMENO-SENSEI?

YOU KNEW I WAS COMING, SO YOU CAME TO GET SOME ADVICE?
THAT JUST WON'T DO!
YOU CAN'T KEEP CLINGING TO YOUR FORMER EDITOR FOREVER...

NOZAKI-KUN!!!
CALM DOWN !!!
BE THE ADULT!!!
GIRI (GRIND)
IT'S TIME TO GROW UP.
OKAY?

BACKGROUND REFERENCE MATERIAL



OH!
YOU WEREN'T LOOKING AT THE BLOG, WERE YOU?
AHH.
IT'S NOT BAD, IS IT?
IT'S PRETTY POPULAR.
I KNOW!!
CAN I GET A PICTURE IN HERE?
HUH ...?
INTRO-DUCING MIYAKO-SENSEI'S PLACE!!!!
WHAA!?
NO WAY !!!
EVERY-ONE AROUND NOZAKI-KUN WILL BE SHOCKED !!!
NO PIC-TURES!!!
SAKU-RA...!
I DON'T REALLY LIKE IT EITHER...
BA CPWISHD
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S OF ME.
ME.
HURRY UP AND TAKE IT.
.....

DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU LEFT SOME-THING BEHIND?
SHOULD WE LOOK FOR IT?
OH!
IT'S JUST FINE.

IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
WHAT IS IT?
DOES IT HAVE ANY IDENTIFYING FEATURES ...?

AH, IT REALLY ISN'T ANYTHING ALL THAT IMPORTANT ...
...BUT SINCE YOU'RE OFFERING, I GUESS YOU COULD HELP LOOK FOR IT.

IT'S MIYAKO-SENSEI'S MANU-SCRIPT.
MAE-NOOO-OOO!!!

MAGAZINE: ROMANCE
YUMENO-SENSEI, MAMIKO'S EYES ARE EVEN BIGGER THAN USUAL IN THIS CHAPTER!!
I COULDN'T HELP BUT MEASURE THEM!!
ロマンス
IF YOU HAD HER WEAR CONTACTS, THEY'D BE LIKE THIS!!!
LIKE THIS !!!
BWA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
IRA (URK)

[ISSUE 10]

I'M HERE TO ASK NOZAKI TO WRITE ME A SCRIPT.
OH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OH? HORI-SENPAI?
THIS IS RARE.

A SCRIPT? FOR THE DRAMA CLUB?
YEAH.
KASHIMA IS THE STAR OF THE CLUB...
...BUT THERE JUST AREN'T THAT MANY STORIES WITH PRINCES IN THEM...
SO I HAVE HIM WRITE THEM.

AND...
...IN EXCHANGE, I HAVE HIM DO THE BACK-GROUNDS FOR MY MANGA.
IT'S GIVE AND TAKE.
OH! I GET IT!

SO BASICALLY, SENPAI, YOU'RE DOING PHYSICAL LABOR ALL FOR KASHIMA-KUN'S SAKE!
GU (CLENCH)
COULD YOU NOT PUT IT THAT WAY?
IT REALLY PISSES ME OFF.

BY THE WAY, NOZAKI ...
...DID YOU MEET KASHI-MA?
YES... I SCREWED UP.
IT JUST HAPPENED.
?

SOME-THING BAD HAPPENED WHEN YOU MET HER?
WELL... UNTIL NOW, I WAS JUST WRITING WITH A GENERIC PRINCE IN MIND...
BUT...

...NOW THAT I'VE MET THE REAL THING, I JUST CAN'T HELP IT...
OH ...!
OH YEAH... KASHIMA-KUN'S A GIRL...

THE PRINCE ENDS UP BEING A TOTAL PLAYBOY.
PRINCE: "HEY THERE, MISS!♡ THAT BLACK DRESS LOOKS SO SEXY ON YOU.♡"
WITCH: "I-IS THAT SO?"
THE PRINCE IS SO SHAL-LOW!!!

HAVE NOZAKI AND THE PRESIDENT ALWAYS BEEN THAT CLOSE?
HEY...
...
CHIYO-CHAN.

WHAT SORT OF RELATION-SHIP DO THEY HAVE?
THEY-HAVE NOTHING-IN COMMON...
IT'S JUST THAT I'VE SEEN THEM TOGETHER A LOT LATELY.
HUH ...!?

UM... UH...
NOZAKI-KUN...
I CAN'T TELL HER ABOUT NOZAKI-KUN'S JOB OR HOW SENPAI HELPS HIM OUT.
WH-WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
ORO (NERVOUS)

WHAT KIND OF MESSED UP RELATION-SHIP IS THAT!!?
IT'S A MATURE GIVE AND TAKE RELATION-SHIP!!!
...IS JUST PAYING SENPAI BACK WITH HIS BODY!!!

KA-SHIMA-KUN...
...WHEN DID HE EVER TREAT YOU LIKE THAT!?
HUH!!?
MY SPOT AS HIS ADORABLE KOUHAI IS IN DANGER ...!!!
THIS IS BAD ...!!!

THAT'S NOT FAVOR-ITISM!!!
I ALWAYS GET THE BIG ROLES!!!
BECAUSE YOU'RE GOOD AT IT!!!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO SKIPS REHEARSAL !!!
I'M THE ONLY ONE HE ALWAYS COMES TO GET FOR REHEARSAL !!

THERE'S ONE MORE THING THAT MAKES ME SPECIAL ...!!!
NO, WAIT A MINUTE ...!!!
I HONESTLY THOUGHT THAT I WAS HIS FAVORITE...
NO WAY...

THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT FAVORITISM !!!
BAAAN (TA-DAAA)
ばーん
I'm the only one he hits unreserv-edly!!

WHO DO YOU LIKE BETTER, NOZAKI OR ME!?
PRESI-DENT!
DA (DASH)
ARGH! I'M JUST GOING TO ASK HIM!!
NOZAKI.
KASHI-MA-KUN!!!
WAAAH!
GASHI (GRAB)
CHIYO-CHAAAN !!!
THE PRESIDENT ...!!
CON-SOLE ME!!!
BUT I'D PROBABLY CHOOSE NOZAKI-KUN TOO ...!!!

I'M FEELING REALLY HURT TODAY, SO I THINK I'LL SKIP REHEARSAL.
LET'S GO GET ICE CREAM!
YOU KNOW, YOU LOST TO NOZAKI-KUN BECAUSE YOU DO STUFF LIKE THIS...

WHAT SORT OF RELATIONSHIP DO YOU WANT WITH SENPAI ANYWAY?
WHAT SORT ...?
HMM. LET'S SEE...

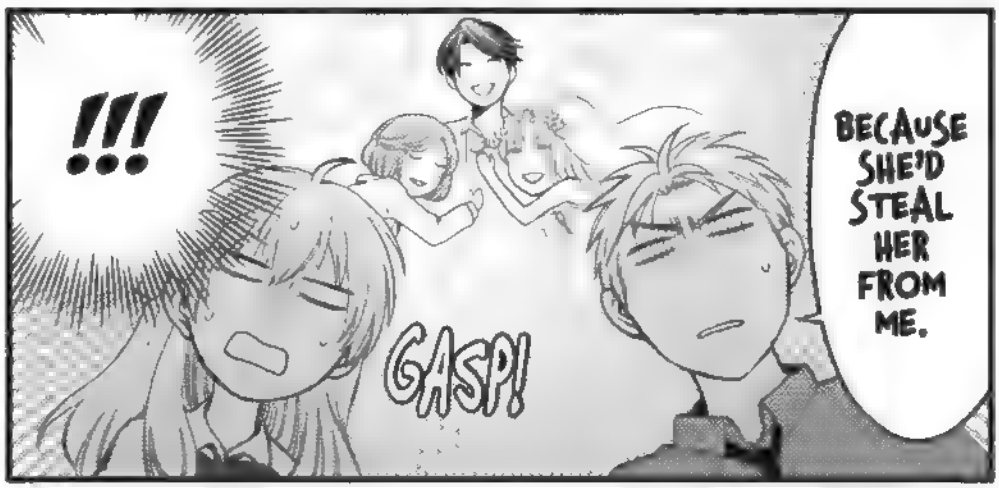
A WEDDING ...
HUH!?
W—
WED-DING!?
GABA (SHOCK)

...GETTING INVITED TO PERFORM SOMETHING AT HIS WEDDING, I GUESS.
I WANT TO DANCE...
WHOO!! CONGRATULATIONS!!!
... WELL ...
SUCH LOW EXPECTA-TIONS!!!

MY WEDDING, HUH...
ICE CREAM, HUH.
AND THEN WE HAD ICE CREAM.
...SO THAT'S WHAT KASHIMA-KUN SAID.

!?
I DEFI-NITELY DON'T WANT TO INVITE HER...

SEN-PAI...!?
WHY WOULD YOU GO THAT FAR...!?
ACTU-ALLY... ...I WOULDN'T EVEN TELL HER IF I GOT A GIRL-FRIEND...


!!!
GASP!
BECAUSE SHE'D STEAL HER FROM ME.

SURE.
I WANT TO CHANGE THE FEEL.
IF YOU TWO ARE FREE, THEN COULD YOU TRY READING THIS?
ME TOO?
PRINCE

"WHAT IS YOUR NAME ...?"
I'M CAROL...? "MY NAME IS PRINCESS CAROL...?
"...I AM...
HERO-INE

HE'S GOOD...!!!
HE REALLY IS GOOD ...!!!
BUWA (FWOOSH)
"...REMI-LEO...
"PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MY BEAUTIFUL LADY."
!!!

THE WRITING IS AWFUL, THOUGH!
"IS THAT ALL RIGHT !!?"
"...SO I WANT THEM BOTH!!"
"THE PRINCESS AND THE WITCH ARE BOTH CHARM-ING...

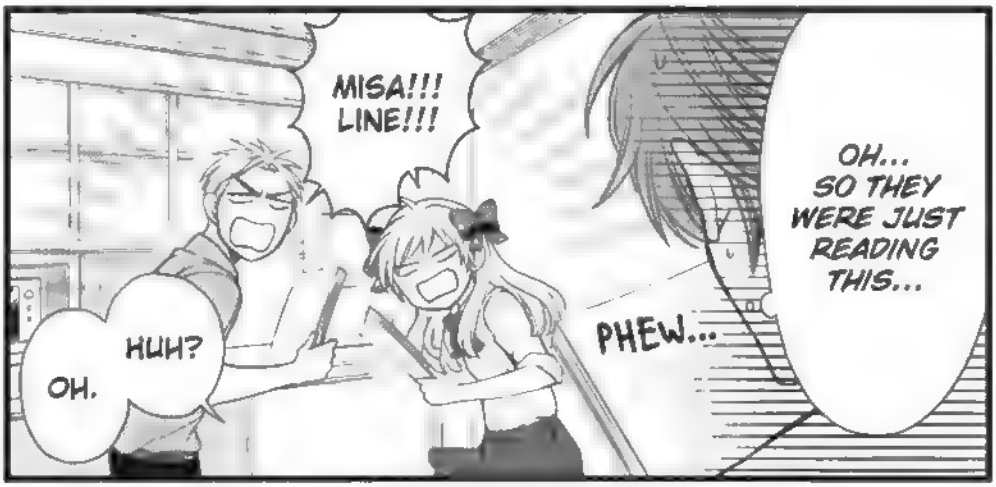
I...
THAT'S RIGHT...
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE JUST READING LINES, THIS IS SERIOUS ACTING FOR SENPAI...

"WERE YOU JUST TOYING WITH ME!?"
"WHAT IS WITH THAT WOMAN!!?
...HAVE TO TRY MY BEST TOO!!!
KA (FLASH)

"ONLY THE FLOWERS OF MY LOVE HAVE PRODUCED SEVERAL DIFFERENT BUDS...!!!"
"I TRULY DO LOVE YOU!!!
"NO!!! I'M SERI-OUS!!!
KUWA (GLARE)

WHY IS SAKURA HAVING A LOVERS' SPAT AT NOZAKI'S PLACE ....!!?
THIS IS A REAL NUISANCE!!!
GATAAN (CLATTER)
"NO!!! I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANY-MORE!!!"
WAIT!
GACHAAN (CRASH)
PARIIN (CRUNCH)
.....

ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPT



NO!!!
HUH...? OH. "GOOD AFT—"
AND WHAT IS WITH THAT VOICE!? PUT YOUR GUT INTO IT!!
"GOOD AFTER-NOON, MASTER !!!"
NO.
AGAIN!!!
UH...
"G-GOOD AFTER-NOON, MASTER ..."
AGAIN!!!
...OH.
AHH!
SENPAI ...!!!
TON (TAP)
TON
HEH...
...YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU TRY...
OH WELL...
THE CLUMSY MAID AND THE HARDCORE PRINCE
I SLIPPED BACK TO MY USUAL HABITS AND MADE MIKOSHIBA THE HEROINE...

OH YEAH. THIS WAS YOUR FIRST TIME MEETING MIKOSHIBA, WASN'T IT?
KYAA! KYAA!
YEAH...
I THOUGHT HE WAS KASHIMA'S FRIEND...
...SO I DIDN'T EXPECT TO MEET HIM HERE.
.....
.....
YEAH.
IN A MORE TRADI-TIONAL WAY...
OUR KASHIMA IS MORE HAND-SOME.
NO MATTER WHAT, YOU JUST REALLY LIKE KASHIMA'S FACE, DON'T YOU?

MONTHLY GIRLS' NOZAKI-KUN 1

Izumi Tsubaki

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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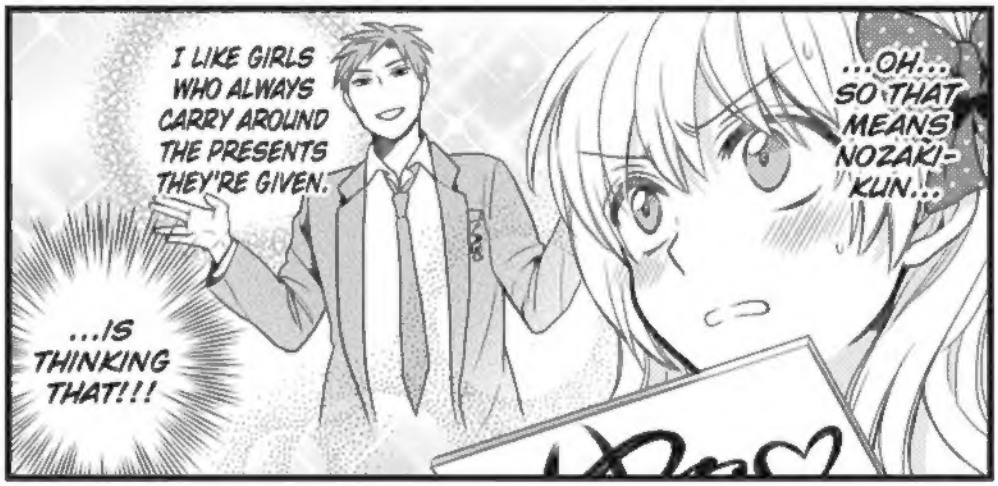
HMM?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
REALLY ...?
WH—?
THAT COULD BE A GOOD SIGN.

THAT'S JUST BECAUSE YOU FORGOT YOURS FOR THE TEST.
IT DOESN'T MEAN ANY-THING.
I GOT AN ERASER THE OTHER DAY!♡
WHETHER SOMETHING FROM A BOY MEANS ANYTHING OR NOT.

I, UM...
HUH?
HEY, CHIYO, HAVE YOU EVER GOTTEN ANYTHING?
HMM.
THAT'S IFFY...
I GOT A CHARM FOR MY PHONE!

GIVE UP ON THAT ONE.
HOW STUCK UP IS THAT?
...GOT AN AUTO-GRAPH.

!!!
I WANT TO KEEP IT WITH ME ALL THE TIME...
SUZUKI-KUN GAVE IT TO ME...


I LIKE GIRLS WHO ALWAYS CARRY AROUND THE PRESENTS THEY'RE GIVEN.
...IS THINKING THAT!!!
...OH... SO THAT MEANS NOZAKI-KUN...

GYM CLASS
THE SCHOOL STORE

HEY, NOZAKI ...
WHY DO YOU THINK SAKURA IS DOING THAT...?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
MAYBE IT'S SOME NEW HEALTH CRAZE.
I'LL HAVE TO HAVE HER TEACH ME IF IT WORKS.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!!?
WHA—!?
YOU JUST YELL THINGS AT THEM FROM FAR AWAY.
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU NEVER REALLY TALK WITH GIRLS, DO YOU, MIKORIN?

I'LL SHOW YOU MY CAPTI-VATING CONVER-SATIONAL SKILLS!!
JUST WATCH!!
SAKURA...
YOU'VE REALLY HURT MY PRIDE...

RIRORON (DING-DONG)
ピロロ〜ン
KYA
KYA
WHA—? NO WAY, MIKOSHIBA-KUN!

WHAT ABOUT YOUR PRIDE?
Mikorin
Sb: I'm sorry
Save me!

SASH: DRAMA CLUB

LEFT SIGN: GIRLS / RIGHT SIGN: BOYS